

Mighty Men of God

1 Cor 1:26-31...God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong....

Joseph – Gen 37 Moses – Exodus 3-4 Gideon – Judges 6-7
Saul – 1 Sam 9-10 David – 1 Sam 16-18 Jeremiah – Jer 1

Characters: A stereotype C of E Vicar narrating – a bit ponderous, but sincere and trying to be “modern”; one person representing God’s chosen man of the moment; somebody as God.

Vicar preaching from lectern; God and Man stood facing forwards.

Vicar: A good morning to you all. In today’s sermon we will be looking at some of the Old Testament heroes chosen by God to carry out his work. We think, for instance, of Moses. When God called Moses, Moses responded

Chosen Man: I’m nobody special and I hate public speaking. Can’t you choose someone else?

Vicar: To which God replied

God: No, I want you to do this for me. I’m the Lord and I’m way bigger than Pharaoh and I’m going to be with you – get on with it

Vicar: At which Moses pulled many long faces until God said

God: Oh alright, you can work miracles and take Aaron along

Vicar: And so it came to pass that Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. // Later, God requested Gideon’s assistance and Gideon said

Chosen Man: But Lord, how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the tribe and I am the least important member of my family

Vicar: The Lord answered

God: You can do it because I will help you

Vicar: And Gideon responded by testing the Lord’s patience saying

Chosen Man: Make this fleece dry; oh that was good!; make the fleece wet...

Vicar: And when he was finally satisfied that the Lord could perform all sorts of party tricks, Gideon led 300 Israelites who lapped up water like a dog to defeat the Midianites, and God was once again proved right in his choice of leader. // When God called Saul to be king, Saul said

Chose Man: I belong to the smallest tribe and my family is the least important in the tribe; you must want somebody else

Vicar: And hid behind the supplies. Then God said

God: He's hiding behind the supplies over there – quick! Make him king!

Vicar: And Saul was made king and defeated many of Israelites enemies. // When David was picked as the next king of Israel even the prophet Samuel viewed his brothers as more fitting for the role but God said

God: The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Vicar: And so the spirit of the Lord came upon David in power and he slew Goliath – who was ever so big – and went on to have a very chequered history. But even when he had done something very stupid, David would always eventually turn back to God and overall was consider a mighty king. // When God called Jeremiah, Jeremiah said

Chosen Man: I don't know how to speak about serious things; I'm too young to be a prophet

Vicar: To which God replied

God: I chose you for this job before you were even born; I will be with you and protect you. Don't be afraid to tell the people what I tell you to tell them.

Vicar: Which was such a mouthful that Jeremiah could not think of a response quick enough and ended up passing on so many messages from God that they take up 52 chapters in the Bible. // And so you see how these mighty men of God were not entirely confident about their abilities and yet leapt at the chance to take their place in God's plans. I believe God is calling us to do his work today, and our response will be

Chosen Man: Who me? I'm too young; I'm a poor speaker, slow and...hesitant; I'm nobody special; I'm from a family of nobodies. Can't somebody else do it?

Vicar: To which God replies

God: You can do whatever I ask of you because I will be with you.

Vicar: Amen