

Daily Devotional, October 1, 2021 God uses us all for God's Kingdom Purposes

“Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.” Acts 10:34-35 (NIV)

The people who follow Jesus, and the people who serve the world in the name of Jesus, are a diverse people. In fact, when you look at those who first helped the church come to life, you will see many diverse people. Two of the strongest leaders of the early church were quite different from one another.

Peter was one of the first to follow Jesus. He infamously laid down his nets to become a, “fisher of people.” (Matthew 4:9) Peter followed Jesus from the shores of the sea of Galilee, where he grew up working with his hands, making a living by fishing. Peter went from being a blue-collar worker to leading the church from Jerusalem to Rome.

Paul was from a privileged Jewish family that provided him the best of education. He was a highly trained Jewish Pharisee who was an expert in the law and seemed to have great political ambition. To top it, Paul was also a Roman citizen. Unlike Peter, Paul did not follow Jesus during Jesus' earthly ministry. Paul met Jesus in that legendary encounter on the road to Damascus, in which Jesus' glory blinded Paul. (Acts 9)

Two different men, two different backgrounds, two different journeys, yet both worked to bring about a church that has shared the good news of Jesus around the world. Peter and Paul were dissimilar, but they had the same goal. Peter and Paul came from two distinct backgrounds, but they worked together to create a church where all could belong and feel at home.

We all are part of a family of faith. We are not all the same. God uses all types of people to accomplish God's good purpose. We often focus on our differences, but it is our purpose that unites us. As God's people, we are called to a good work, (Ephesians 2:10) sharing God's love and bringing hope to the world.

Prayer: Dear God, We pray that You would remind us that that we are all a part of building and growing Your Kingdom. We ask that You give us a fresh vision for Your purpose for our lives. We ask that You open our eyes, our ears, our hearts, and our minds to Your vision so that we can live out our purpose. Remove anything that hinders us from discerning Your vision. We pray that You would draw us closer to You as You reveal to us Your purpose. Please show us what we need to do today to not run wild, but rather to be focused on your divine vision. In Jesus' name, Amen.