

jan 12

used or useless

"whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" then i said, 'here am i! send me.'" isa 6:8

when i used to go to church, i always sat on the right side, in the last pew, looking towards the preacher. i think we all get used to where we sit and look upon it as our reserved parking space. i know some will look on that as being farther away from the anointing. when i began attending, i felt so useless i didn't think i could contribute in any way.

i remember one sunday service, i was sitting in my usual spot - not too many occupiers that far back. i had prayed that morning, "God, please use me in some way." well, that's all God wants - a willing vessel. it so happens we had several visitors that day. for some reason she had chosen to sit on my designated pew (but not in my seat, thank goodness.)

anyway, after the sermon and people were hanging out and getting prayed for and everything - i don't remember if she approached me or i discerned something troubled her - it turned out she needed prayer and agreement about something in her life.

she was a visitor and i probably would never see her again, so my timid spirit suddenly became bold as i grab her hand and began praying. she seemed to be blessed and thankful, but not as much as me. God had answered my prayer that very day; that very service.

that's all God asks of any of us; a willing heart.

that was many years and many tears ago. needless to say, my prayers to "use me" have continued unabated. in fact, my prayer has become "use me up." if i am no longer useful to further His glory, His goodness, His mercy, His faithfulness... well i could go on indefinitely. essential, if i am no longer useful to Him, i just want to be with Him.

okay, here comes the punch line. after all that praying to be used, the other day the Lord kept prompting me to do this thing and it was something i really didn't want to do. i kept "reasoning" all the reasons i shouldn't do it. it would take so much time - it would require a lot of relearning (doing things i had forgotten how they were done) - i couldn't do it as well as someone else could - again, i could go on and on.

i guess with age, a little wisdom has come. it just took less than a day, a few hours, for me to say "yes Lord." so the next day i began my long, tedious, grueling task that God wanted me to do. (i do not know if these people will either like it or want it.) But God told me, just do it.

do you know what? surprise, surprise! God made it enjoyable. my mind started running with ideas and i couldn't wait to get up and get started again on the project. sure, i got tired and also got a few new wrinkles in my brain but i had the joy of the Lord leading me on. and do you know what? it doesn't matter if it's wanted or appreciated or anything. i am

being used again by God. my prompting to do this project may well be for some other purpose He has in mind. it may just be because He was testing me as to whether i would be obedient or not. either way, it matters not to me. i remained where i always want to be - in the center of His will. "when He has tested me, i shall come forth as gold." job 23:10

just as God's people of long ago were flawed and still moved in His will, i too am knowingly flawed but evidently not beyond His use. none of us are. it only takes a willing heart and two words - yes Lord. who can ever grasp the depth of His mercy, beauty and goodness? certainly not me. now is the time God wants a lot of yes people. those saying, "here am i. send me." here am i, "use me." use the chalk down to the stub. use the pencil down to the eraser. use me up Lord.