

# 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 “Not Many Wise, Mighty, Or Noble”

**26** For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

- Saved by an ‘**M**’

*A noblewoman once told the great Methodist preacher John Wesley that she was saved by an “m.” When Wesley asked for an explanation, she pointed him to 1 Corinthians 1:26, which in the King James Version reads,*

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”

*“God did not say ‘Not **any** noble are called,’ she explained, “but ‘Not many noble.’ Were it not for that letter, I might be lost.”*

*Today in the Word, April 19, 1993 <sup>1</sup>*

- **When God calls**, He turns the world’s standards upside down and usually chooses the ordinary rather than the outstanding in order **“that no flesh one should glory in His presence.”** (v. 29) <sup>2</sup>

- Here’s how Paul describes the Corinthian believers:

## **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

**9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

**10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

**11** **And such were some of you.**

But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

**27** But **God has chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and **God has chosen** the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

**28** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised **God has chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

**29** **that no flesh should glory in His presence.**

- “God has chosen” – 3X in these three verses
  - Father knows best

<sup>1</sup>10,000 sermon illustrations. 2000 (electronic ed.). Dallas: Biblical Studies Press.  
v. verse

<sup>2</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- He knows the outcome of His choices before we know He's made them – and yet He still chooses us!

**Ephesians 1:3-6**

**3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,  
**4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,  
**5** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,  
**6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- Blessed us
- Chosen us
- Predestined us
- Adopted us
- Accepted us

- We are all just common people – just like Jesus was.

**1 Cor 6:11** **And such were some of you.**

**But** you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- **Abraham Lincoln** said, **“God must have loved the common people. He made so many of them.”**

**2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, **that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.**

**30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—  
**31** that, as it is written, **“He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”**

- We have become through the cross:

- His wisdom
- His righteousness
- His sanctification
- His redemption

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- **“Of Him” you are – it’s not the work of any great intellectual, any great human wisdom or nobility – It’s all His work – His wisdom – His Grace!**
- **Paul said:**

**Galatians 6:14** But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

**1 Corinthians 1:29** that no flesh should glory in His presence.