Worst, Worse, Average, Better, Best

"So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God."

II Chronicles 27:6

• Father was Uzziah who got leprosy for incense crime.

• He was better than his father by no incense crime.

He did nothing by impulse but rather by examination.

Why Men's Meetings?

• To persuade, press, and provoke men to their <u>BEST</u>.

To do it without family and/or for male matters.

They are not for feel-good entertainment like most.

We could have bowling and basketball leagues.

We could have visitation to pass out heresy tracts.

Worst, Worse, Average, Better, Best

Let's Rank All You Men - 1

- An IQ test ... 45-145 ... ave 100
- Annual earned income
- Bench press
- Impromptu speech
- Mile run
- Net assets not counting house
- Waist measurement
- Wife satisfaction index
- Verses memorized

Let's Rank All You Men - 2

These things are seldom talked about in a group.

Some of them are considered offensively private.

Feelings would be hurt and pride could easily result.

But the greatest measure of a man is his godliness!

God in scripture compares and ranks men openly.

Worst, Worse, Average, Better, Best

Does It Matter?

- God's blessing on your life?
- Soul joy and peace with God?
- Great day of judgment for you?
- God's blessings on your family?
- Preservation of national tranquility?
- Church growth/profit by your joint?
- Adorning and defense of rare truth?
- Evangelistic help by your godly efforts?
- God's glory, praise, and pleasure by your life?

Worst, Worse, Average, Better, Best

Does He Deserve It?

- If God were only your Creator?
- Since He adopted you, does that help?
- Since He has given you more than most?
- What has He not done that He should do?
- Is the gift of His Son just not very impressive?
- What about the truth He has entrusted to you?
- What if sunshine and rain were all He had given?
- Does He deserve your very best as a very great king?
- Is He justified in severely judging any poor returns?

Worst, Worse, Average, Better, Best

Tee-ball keeps no score to avoid winners and losers.

Your Creator, Judge, and Father keeps score always.

He loves to commend and reward the winners.

He loves to ridicule, punish, and take from the losers.

• Think ... tremble ... parable of the pounds (Lu 19:11-27)!

- 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:
- 21 For I feared thee, <u>because thou art an austere man:</u> thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.
- 22 And he saith unto him, <u>Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man</u>, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:
- 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

- Men avoid comparisons today due to effeminacy.
- Jesus: "Lovest thou me more than these?" (Jn 21:15).

• Some widows get supported ... others not (1 Tim 5:3-16).

He that hath gets more ... he that hath not loses it!

• Bereans more noble than Thessalonians (Acts 17:11).

Are there comparisons in Samuel, Kings, Chronicles?

What king was the constant standard of greatness?

Which kings were compared favorably?

Which kings were compared unfavorably?

You don't think it fair to compare to David? Grow up!

Compared to David ... Flunked

- Solomon ... not perfect like heart of David .. (I Kgs 11:4).
- Solomon ... not fully after LORD as David ... (I Kgs 11:6).
- Solomon ... not keep statutes as David ... (I Kgs 11:33).

• Abijam (2) ... not perfect like heart of David ... (1 Kgs 15:3).

• Amaziah (8) ... yet not like David his father ... (II Kgs 14:3).

• Ahaz (11) ... did not like David his father ... (II Kgs 16:2).

Compared to David ... Passed

• Jehoshaphat (4) ... walked in ways of David ... (II Chr 17:3).

• Hezekiah (12) ... all David his father did ... (II Kgs 18:3).

• Josiah (15) ... walked in all the way of David ... (II Kgs 22:2).

• Bear fruit of 30-fold, 60-fold, and 100-fold.

• Do it His way, or you are not fit for kingdom (Lu 9:59-62).

Jesus laid out duties ... or <u>cannot be</u> my disciple.

Jesus laid out duties ... or <u>not worthy</u> of me.

John the Baptist was greatest born of women.

• Paul did not want John Mark on second trip (Ac 15:38).

• Benaiah more honorable than 30 but not 3 (II Sa 23:23)!

• Abishai more honourable than 2 but not 3 (I Chr 11:21).

Paul boasted of his superiority (II Cor 10:12-16; 11:22-28).

We are supposed to pick the best and follow (Phil 3:17).

- We are to covet earnestly the best gifts (I Cor 12:31).
- Jesus said Mary had chosen the good part (Lu 10:41-42).

• Hezekiah's Passover compared to Solomon (II Ch 30:26).

Josiah's Passover was compared to Samuel (II Ch 35:18).

• The gifts in the church are clearly ranked (1 Cor 12:28).

Examples by Contrast

- David ... vs ... Manasseh
- Aaron ... vs ... Solomon
- Abraham ... vs ... Lot
- Josiah ... vs ... Jehu
- Timothy ... vs ... Demas
- Paul ... vs ... John Mark
- Jehoshaphat ... vs ... Hezekiah
- Moses ... vs ... Saul
- Nicodemus ... vs ... Philip

Assigning W2, W1, AVE, B1, B2



Assigning W2, W1, AVE, B1, B2

- I only miss 10% of assemblies in a year ... AVE.
- I never pray unless forced ... W1.
- I never pray ... W2.
- I visit with family 70% of time around services ... W1.
- I meticulously tithe 10% of my gross ... AVE.
- I am too busy to participate outside services ... W2.
- I volunteered to do a Psalm once ... AVE.
- I did not volunteer to do a Psalm ... W2.
- I think you are too hard to measure us like this ... W2.

Are You Competitive? - 1

How many 20-year-olds can match Mormon boys?

What do you do to match JW door-to-door work?

Who makes vows of celibacy and poverty for lies?

Arminians and others have more weekly activities.

You do not teach S.S., drive a bus, sing in choir, etc.

Are You Competitive? - 2

Why would you not want to aim for David?

Why is not your life exceeding magnifical for Him?

Why get excited about a career, job, raise, or title?

Why not get excited about great king and a crown!

• The desire of the office of bishop is good (1 Tim 3:1).

"So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God."

II Chronicles 27:6

• Father was Uzziah who got leprosy for incense crime.

• He was better than his father by no incense crime.

He did nothing by impulse but rather by examination.

"And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez" (I Chron 4:9).

As indicated, the Holy Spirit compares and ranks.

Jabez was more honourable than his brothers.

The Spirit notes a bold prayer that was answered!

"His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all."

I Corinthians 15:10

Paul was constrained by love of Christ (II Chr 5:14-15).

He forgot things behind and pressed on (Phil 3:12-14).

• Those forgiven much love much, few like Paul (Lu 7:47).

"For I have <u>no man likeminded</u>, who will naturally care for your state. For <u>all seek their own</u>, not the things which are Jesus Christ's" (Phil 2:20-21).

Might there have been hurt ministerial feelings?

Is this generally true of most all Christians today?

If you seek your own, not Christ's, you are a ... BW!

Does It Matter?

- God's blessing on your life?
- Soul joy and peace with God?
- Great day of judgment for you?
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What Hinders You? - 1

- In a spiritual rut and really don't care?
- Life's pretty cool and you're content?
- You can't hear me due to your daydreaming?
- God and Christ not important enough?
- It does not matter; you're elect?
- You're an average loser in everything?
- Tired of being pressed, want praise?
- It doesn't matter God is God?
- It'll work out in the end okay everything does.

What Hinders You? - 2

- Someone else will do it? You can wait.
- You sinned last year ... its too late? Think David!
- You need this reminder tonight?
- You need ideas to improve?
- You couldn't keep it up the last time you tried?
- You think your peers even here will mock you?
- I think God wants us to take it easy in life?
- I'll get serious soon, probably around 30?
- You say the same over and over ... I am still alive.

Are there still 168 Hours in a Week?

- Does 50 hours at work cover most of you?
- Does 60 hours sleeping cover most of you (8.5)?
- Does 8 to eat and bathe cover most of you?
- Does <u>8</u> to attend church twice weekly cover you?

- Is there time to work another full-time job?
- Is there time to read the N.T. each week (10m a chap)?
- Is there time to do church yard yourself ten times?
- What do you do with the extra 42 hours?

Little Things to Improve - 1

- Pray in back room ... most never have ... same 10/40.
- Take your wife a treat and thank her in Jesus' name.
- Pray one minute longer every day than your habit.
- If you are not giving systematically, stop robbing God.
- If you are giving systematically, start giving 1% more.
- If you are under 30, gravitate to those 5+ years older.
- If you have family here, please God by ignoring them.
- If a systematic Bible reader, increase a chapter a day.
- If not systematic, get so by using one of many plans.

Little Things to Improve - 2

- Get with a man or couple that would rank above you.
- Ask for someone to write, from brother Sing to Jim.
- Get the monthly prayer schedule and use it each day.
- If you have systematic devotions, add a minute or so.
- If you do not, then get systematic in a daily schedule.
- Find a soul (everyone knows someone) ... win a soul.
- Make the Proverb a set habit with prayer for readers.
- Pick one time a week when you will sing with family.
- Listen to one extra sermon a week, even in your car.

Little Things to Improve - 3

- Cut down your television by 25% one way or another.
- Every time you play ... anything ... think of manhood.
- Text or email 2-3 sentences to one member a week.
- Entertain a church member once a week anywhere.
- Take 5 minutes during work day to read and/or pray.
- Prepare an explosive thanksgiving for second service.
- Do something for your wife to pleasantly shock her.
- Pray with your wife, both kneeling, once a week.
- Is there enough extra time to do all these in a week?

Means of Improvement - 1

• First of all get a vision and zeal for greatness (Gal 4:18).

Prepare your ways before God the LORD (II Chr 27:6).

Get constrained by knowing about Jesus (II Cor 5:14-15).

• Forget ... forget ... past good and press on (Phil 3:12-14).

Feast on God's word and the men who feasted on it.

Means of Improvement - 2

Set a daily schedule for Bible and prayer as taught.

Commit to pray once a month in the back room.

Assign yourself and your children to consider others.

Commit to volunteer every time for ongoing projects.

Volunteer for individual jobs and get turned down!

Moving to the Right on the Scale



Onsies for the LORD!

- Can you give God one minute, one chapter, one %?
- This small amount will move you right on the scale.

• If you give them sincerely, He will bless your soul.

As He blesses your soul, you will give Him more.

As you give Him more, you move toward being BEST!

Moving to the Right on the Scale



Your Wife should be the Best

Measured God's way in the Bible, not her way.

Measured God's way in the Bible, not your way.

- Not by worldly women or carnal Christian women.
- How does your wife rank? Others doing the judging?

How does she really compare to Hannah and V.W.?

All Women Are Not Equal

"Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all" (Pr 31:29).

For any woman to satisfy Proverbs 31 is high praise.

For this woman to have excelled all such is fabulous.

This is not her opinion, your opinion, but God's rule.

Your Children should be the Best

Measured God's way in the Bible, not their way.

Measured God's way in the Bible, not your way.

Not by worldly youth or carnal Christian youth.

How do your children rank in two commandments?

Give them assignments at home and for church.

Conclusion

We want sons and grandsons to be better than us.

But we are not going to lie down to make it easy.

We will assist in any way possible ... like tonight.

Let's press each other for the whole church to grow.

Consider when Jesus asks, "Why didn't you care?"

For Further Study

- Managing a Man's Life ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/managing-your-life.pdf
- A Mighty Man's Life ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/a-mighty-man.pdf
- He Deserves Better than That ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/he-deserves-better-than-that.pdf
- Exceeding Magnifical ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/church/exceeding-magnifical/sermon.php
- Do you Love God? ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/do-you-love-god.pdf
- Lovest Thou Me More than These? ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/lovest-thou-me.pdf
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- Cut it Down! ... www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/cut-it-down.pdf
- Belly Worshippers ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/practical/belly-worshippers-2/sermon.php

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