



Midweek Study Notes

13th June 2022

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In our Sunday service Mark spoke about a comment that came onto his radar while studying Genesis. "God doesn't call the people we would expect him to call" This message was reinforced during this last week by a Facebook post Mark saw that said "God picks people that people wouldn't pick".

Do any of you have memories of lining up at school and someone picking teams for football or a similar game?

Were you often picked first, or like me, were you left to the end?! How did that make you feel?



Mark highlighted that Jesus picked some unexpected people to be his disciples, Here is how Luke records Jesus calling Matthew to be his disciple. **How was this choice controversial?**

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke Ch5 27-32

Often when we meet people we can categorise them very quickly. Princeton University psychologist Alex Todorov found that people make judgments on whether or not someone is trustworthy, competent, and likeable within one second of seeing someone's face!

Look at this beautiful prophecy about Jesus from Isaiah Ch11. How reassuring that Jesus doesn't judge us at first glance, or by what other people say about us. **Could we be more like that?**

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. **2**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD **3**and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. **He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4**but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

Could it be that the things we think disqualify us from being useful to God that actually qualify us? Can you think of a time when God used a struggle in your life to help someone else?