

An Effective Instrument In God's Hands

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

– 1 Timothy 1:12 –

I remember a story about a great concert violinist who wanted to prove a point, so he rented a music hall and announced that he would play a concert on a \$20,000 violin. On concert night the music hall was filled to capacity with music lovers anxious to hear such an expensive instrument played. The violinist stepped onto the stage, gave an exquisite performance, and received a thunderous standing ovation. When the applause subsided, he suddenly threw the violin to the ground, stomped it to pieces, and walked off the stage. The audience gasped, then sat in stunned silence.

Within seconds the stage manager approached the microphone and said, “Ladies and gentlemen, to put you at ease, the violin that was just destroyed was a \$20 instrument. The master will now return to play the remainder of his concert on the \$20,000 instrument. At the conclusion of his concert he received another standing ovation. Few people could tell the difference between the two violins. His point was obvious: it isn't the violin that makes the music; it's the violinist.

The disciples were like \$20 violins that Jesus transformed into priceless instruments for His glory. Whenever you have read the Scriptural accounts of the disciples' lives, I trust that you have been encouraged to see how God used them despite their weakness, and have been challenged by their strengths. You may not be dynamic like Peter or zealous like James and Simon, but you can be faithful like Andrew and courageous like Thaddaeus. Remember, God will take the raw material of

your life and will expose you to the experiences and teachings that will shape you into the servant He wants you to be.

Trust Him to complete what he has begun in you, and commit each day to the goal of becoming a more qualified and effective disciple.

- Make a list of the character traits you most admire in the disciples. Ask God to increase those traits in your life.
- Further study: Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17, noting Paul's perspective on his own calling.

– Article submitted by Chuck Wetzel, 06.11.20