

I SOUGHT FOR A MAN: MAKING YOURSELF AVAILABLE TO GOD

1. I SOUGHT FOR A MAN--BUT THERE WAS NONE.
 1. Israel had forsaken God. Her life was filled with lewdness, idolatry and abominable practices.
 2. Then God sought for a man among them, just one man who would obey God and take the place of leadership. But He found none! Not even one man among them who was willing to turn from his wickedness, his slothfulness, his selfishness, his apathy and indolence. Not one man who was willing to obey God, to take a stand for righteousness!

2. MAN IS AT THE CENTER OF GOD'S PLAN.
 1. God's method is men, not machinery!
 2. When He has a job to do, He seeks an available man through whom to work. He does not build an organization.
 3. There is no limit to what God can do when He gets a man really dedicated to Himself. And by the same token there is no limit to the way machinery bogs down God's program when it gets the upper hand. You can hang every important event in the Bible on the life of one man thoroughly "sold out" to God.
 4. If God can find a man who is available, willing, committed, there is no limit to what He can do through him! Some of the greatest exploits of history are the stories of one man--and God!
 5. Dwight L. Moody, while still a shoe salesman, heard a preacher say: "The world has yet to see what God can do with one man who is absolutely consecrated to Him." Moody determined to be that man. He moved two continents for God! You cannot estimate what God would do with you--through you, if you really took Him seriously, gave yourself to Him. Dedicate yourself to God, completely, and it will amaze you what He will do with you--for you--through you!

3. GOD'S MAN SEEKS FOR THE BEST.
 1. Good things can be your greatest enemy!
 1. Good things can hinder your effectiveness as much, or more, than bad things!
 2. Your most consistent choices are not between right and wrong, good and bad. Your most consistent choices lie between the good and the best!
 3. The good is often, too often, the enemy of the best!
 2. There are plenty of "average" men who seldom do a wrong thing...and they seldom do anything else! They're good, but good for what? Good for nothing! Just neutral, average men.

4. GOD'S MAN MAKES GOOD USE OF HIS TIME.

1. Some can do everything but two things:
 1. Think, and do things in the order of their importance.
 2. That's the difference between the man who goes to the top and the fellow who is busy getting nowhere. One keeps busy just avoiding wrong things, the other utilizes his time with the best.
2. Time is precious.
 1. No man can afford to waste it.
 2. Wise men refuse to throw it away.
 1. They organize their time, make it count for the most.
 2. They are not the slaves of time, but its masters.
5. GOD'S MAN IS FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS.
 1. Greatness is not something to be sought as an end in itself.
 2. The man who is ambitious to be great will probably never achieve greatness. Preoccupied with the distant dream, he neglects the present opportunity.
 3. Whereas the man who is doing the job in present circumstances can be depended upon to do the job in the future crisis.
 1. Faithful here and now, he will be faithful there and then!
 2. Faithful in little things, he will be faithful in big ones.
 4. The man who keeps waiting for the big chance never recognizes it when it comes.
 1. Downgrading the ordinary day-to-day affairs conditions him for failure in extraordinary times.
 2. If a man is not great when it doesn't matter, he will not be when it does!
6. GOD'S MAN IS NO QUITTER.
 1. It is always too soon to quit.
 2. Henry Ford's formula for success was simple: When you start a thing, finish it.
 3. There are many excuses for quitting, none justifiable.
 1. A man may quit because he feels the thing he's doing is not worth finishing.
 1. What he's doing may not be important, but he is.
 2. It's what quitting will do to him that matters. Perhaps he loses his inspiration. He began in waves of excitement; then suddenly the inspiration's gone. The thing doesn't seem worth the effort. Temptation is to quit. Maybe it won't make any difference to anyone else if he quits. But it will make a great deal of difference to himself. He's learning to be a quitter. It will be easier to quit next time.
 2. When a thing goes stale, after the inspiration is gone, that is the time to dig in and finish the job, simply for the sake of finishing, for the sake of self-respect.

1. One of the clearest tests of a man's worthwhileness is his response to the uninspired moments--how he reacts to duty--what he does with drudgery.
2. The fellow that depends on inspired moments rarely completes anything. He leaves a trail of unfinished, half-baked jobs behind.
4. Men who count are those who refuse to quit, men who never hear the bell, men who never throw in the towel. They're always needed, always in demand. Nobody wants and nobody needs a quitter.
 1. Often a golf tournament is won on the last hole, the last putt.
 2. Football games have been won in the last thirty seconds by a team that was losing but refused to quit fighting.
7. GOD'S MAN IS NOT AFRAID OF FAILURE.
 1. Failure is not final.
 1. Don't be afraid of failure.
 2. Fear of failure is one of the most debilitating, paralyzing, disintegrating things that can grip a man. It ties him in knots; it cuts efficiency to zero; it makes failure almost inevitable.
 3. When a man's afraid of failure he freezes, tries too hard and can't think straight. He's licked before he starts, if he starts at all.
 2. There is certainly no virtue in not failing if one does not try!
 1. Big men, doing big things, make big mistakes.
 2. Little men make little mistakes.
 3. Some men don't make mistakes...and they don't make anything else either.
 3. Troubles can't get you down unless you let them! You yourself determine whether they shall turn to triumph or tragedy!
 4. It's not what happens to you, but how you react to what happens to you that really counts in the long run!
 1. All men have difficulties! In one way or another disappointment and failure comes to every man.
 2. They make, or mar, a man, depending on how he takes them and how he reacts to them.
 3. Some men take every problem, every failure, as final. They are over-powered by it and driven to despair.
 4. Other men take problems as a part of their education, a means to an end.
 5. Can be stumbling blocks or stepping stones.
8. GOD'S MAN IS CAREFUL TO BE A PATTERN FOR OTHERS.
 1. Like the ripples stirred by a pebble dropped in a brook, a man's influence moves out from him to concentric circles affecting for good or ill every life over which it flows.
 2. It is not just a question of where you go and what you do yourself.

1. It's a question of where you are leading others;
2. How you are influencing those around you.
3. You are somebody's hero.
 1. You may not realize it, but he watches you carefully, respects you, studies you, tries to emulate you.
 2. He is developing life patterns; a way of thinking, a way of looking at life, evaluating it in terms of what he sees in you.

9. HOW TO BECOME GOD'S MAN.

1. No man is really himself, his full self, until he is ruled by God!
 1. Man will be governed either by God--or a tyrant.
 2. The tyrants of money, of power, of prestige, of influence, of popularity or of self will possess and dominate the man who does not submit to God's rule.
 3. All tyrants enslave the man; only God liberates.
2. The basic distinction between man and animal, the thing that makes them different, is the vertical in the life of man--the God-man relationship.
 1. No other goal but the glory of God will draw the best out of a man.
 2. You try putting God at the center of your plans.
 1. Make room for Him in everything.
 2. Take time to read the Bible, to pray and to attend worship.
 3. Give God a chance...He will prove Himself. It's the most practical move you can make.
3. The measure of manhood is the measure of a man's Godliness.
 1. As God created man originally, only God can fashion manhood.
 2. It takes God to make a man!]

(This lesson was taken from a collection of meditations from Between Sundays by Richard C. Halverson (1965). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House).