

Men Without Names: “Now a Certain Man...”

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. A requested sermon from five years ago; “key unnamed Bible characters lesson for Mike Vandine”
 - 1. I have done three lessons of unsung heroes and heroines of the Bible
 - 2. A bit of a challenge to find someone in the scriptures without a name that had an important role in pivotal Bible events
 - a. The Bible writers were meticulous about remembering and recording obscure names for posterity
- B. I think Mike’s purpose for the request was a lesson on humility; I discovered several truths as I studied this lesson:
 - 1. Great events do not require great men for a great resolution
 - 2. In the service of the Lord, it does not matter who does the great work; it matters that the great work is done
 - 3. God often uses quiet unknown men to shape the course of this world

I. 1KINGS 20 - THE UNKNOWN PROPHET

- A. Ahab was supposed to destroy the army of Syria and Benhadad the king.
 - 1. Benhadad insulted God and mocked the Israelites
 - 2. God wanted him dead; Ahab had other plans, called him brother
- B. The unknown prophet
 - 1. Took a wound to make a point
 - 2. Addressed a king whose wife had a reputation as a prophet killer
- C. NT application - 2Cor. 4:8-11
 - 1. Do your part regardless of the cost to you or the lack of recognition

II. 1KINGS 22:29-38 - THE UNKNOWN ARCHER

- A. Ahab’s plans to conceal himself and preserve his life; Micaiah’s prophecy may have been roiling through his mind
 - 1. His plan failed
 - 2. An unknown archer drew his bow at random; he was just doing his job
 - 3. Alternate translation: “in his integrity”; shooting perhaps in a volley
- B. God was able to use an archer randomly chosen, making a shot at random, following orders given by a man who had no idea Ahab was in disguise in the chariot line fleeing from them
- C. NT application - Isa. 46:8-11
 - 1. There is no way to stop the full realization of God’s purposes
 - 2. There is no way to be certain how crucial or unimportant our role may be in it; it is best just to do our part and let God deliver the increase
 - 3. 1Cor. 3:5-8

III. 2KINGS 5 - THE UNKNOWN SERVANT

- A. 2Kings 5:13
 - 1. His own servants gave him reproof and counsel

- a. It is a blessing to have those about us with love and courage to faithfully tell us our faults and follies
 - 2. The reproof was modest and respectful. They call him Father; when giving reproof or counsel we must make it appear that it comes from love and honor, and that we intend, not reproach, but reformation.
- B. Great men would do well to listen to the counsel of subordinates
 - 1. One need not be a great man to offer great counsel to a great man
- C. NT application - Prov.9:7-9
 - 1. Gal. 6:1

IV. MATT. 26:17-19 - THE UNKNOWN HOMEOWNER

- A. Luke 22:7-13 - Little is said about the man and no details are given of his response to their request
 - 1. We could speculate for hours about the man and his role.
 - 2. It is after all the institution of the Lord's Supper, a weekly observance engaged by millions of faithful Christians for thousands of years.
 - 3. "Surely this man is important and his house a landmark!"
- B. No, sometimes unknown means unknown. He is not important to the account, nor to the purpose for which his home was used
 - 1. Some persons, like some interesting matters, are unknown because such knowledge is not necessary, and can at best be considered distracting; and, at worst, a potential source for digression
 - 2. Matt. 17:1-5 - Mount of Transfiguration - "Let us build tabernacles for Moses and Elijah."
 - 3. The presence of Moses and Elijah was designed to focus attention on Jesus; Peter was ready to engage ancestor worship
- C. Some persons must remain unknown in this world; God's revelation is complete; we have all we need
 - 1. Deut. 29:29; 2Tim. 3:16-17