

Introduction: God is always shopping...

What is He looking for?

³⁰ I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. ³¹ Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NASB)

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NASB)

Question: Why does God use some people and not others?

The answer: Philippians 2:19-30

The purpose for sending Timothy?

Paul _____!

¹⁹But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

Philippians 2:19 (NASB)

The reason Timothy was chosen?

Timothy _____!

²⁰For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²²But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

Philippians 2:20-24 (NASB)

The reason Epaphroditus is sent?

Epaphroditus _____!

²⁵But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ²⁶because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. ²⁹Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; ³⁰because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Philippians 2:25-30 (NASB)

Summary

Timothy and Epaphroditus exemplify the kind of person God uses to fulfill His purposes on Earth.

4 things God is looking for:

1. Do you have a _____ heart?

2. Are you _____ and _____?

3. Are you _____ in the assignments God gives you?

4. Are you _____ and _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when God used your life to help someone in a significant way. How did it feel?
2. Which of the 4 questions, on page 3, did you answer “yes” to? Explain your answer.
3. Why do you think God sometimes passes over “talented and gifted” people to use people like Timothy?
4. How does a hurried, busy lifestyle “kill” love in relationships?
5. What specifically do you need to stop or start doing to become the kind of person God can really use?