

What sets us apart

Theuns Jacobs

Moses The disqualified

"How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your **presence** among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."" (Exodus 33:16, NLT) The lesson of Moses: 1. We are set apart by the presence of God. "Inside the Tent of Meeting, the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting." (Exodus 33:11, NLT) The lesson of Moses:1. We are set apart by the presence of God.2. The presence of God is demonstrated by God speaking to us.

If the church does not exist to fulfil God's purposes on earth, then it ceases to be the church. (Lesslie Newbigin)

Elizabeth The barren

"At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?...Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever."" (Luke 1:41–55, NLT)

The lesson of Elizabeth:1. Humility is the key of hearing the voice of God.2. The essence of humility is the celebration of others.3. The essence of pride is competition with others.

Timothy The timid

Place these truths before the brothers and sisters. If you do, you will be a good servant of Jesus the Anointed, raised and fed on words of true belief, trained in the good instruction you have so clearly followed. Reject worldly fables. Refuse old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself toward godliness. Although training your body has certain payoffs, godliness benefits all things-holding promise for life here and now and promise for the life that is coming.

This statement is worthy of trust and our full acceptance. This is what we work so hard for! This is why we are constantly struggling: because we have an assured hope fixed upon a living God who is the Savior of all humankind—especially all of us who believe.

So go out and insist on these things. Teach them. Don't let anyone belittle you because you are young. Instead, show the faithful, young and old, an example of how to live: set the standard for how to talk, act, love, and be faithful and pure.

Until I get there, make sure to devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching. Don't neglect the gift that was given to you through the prophecy spoken when the company of the elders laid their hands on you. Cultivate all these practices; live by them so that all will see how you are advancing and growing. Take care of yourself, concentrate on your teaching, and stick with these things. If you do, then you will be effective in bringing salvation to yourself and all who hear you. (1 Tim 4:6-16 The Voice)

The lesson of Timothy:1. How we live keeps us pure to the voice of God.2. How we live demonstrates the presence of God in our lives to others.