

I Can't But I Will - Part 1

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I. Introduction to the speaker.

II. Introduction.

A. The multiplying of the loaves. (II Kings 4)

B. Impossibilities in the Bibles.

1. When God commanded something to be done, people raised objections.
2. The answer of adults today is: I would, but I can't.
3. If we are honest with ourselves we will often find that we could do something, but we simply don't want to.
4. We could also say, I can't and I won't.

C. Reflect on a willingness when there is no ability.

1. Many come to the speaker and share their relief that they did not have to do jungle missions because it is what they are afraid of.
2. The speaker is not particularly beyond all of that either even though she did it.
3. Too many come to the Lord and say that they can't
4. We must die to ourselves - when people say that they can't, they usually mean they won't.

III. God never calls anyone to do a job in which that person feels eminently qualified.

A. In the biographies of the Bible, the people protested God's command based upon their qualifications.

1. Moses protested based upon who he was.
 - a. The question was not, who am I?
 - b. The question is, Whose are you?
 - c. Our energies must be directed to knowing the God that sent us.
2. Jeremiah protested too.
3. Gideon told God that He called the wrong man.

B. There are stories of those who could, but they didn't - the parable of the man with two sons (one could go, but didn't).

IV. God qualifies those he calls.

A. The speaker thought she was qualified for missions until she went to Ecuador; God quickly reminded her that He was the Lord.

1. He was to be her help.
2. The more that she got into missionary work, the less she felt she knew.
3. The more wisdom she gained, the less she felt that she knew.
4. One cannot do anything without the Spirit of God.

B. God is the one who qualifies us. (II Corinthians 3:5-6)

C. Have a sane estimate of your own abilities. (I Corinthians 3)

1. If one has an overestimation of one's own ability, then he will soon realize the extent of his capabilities.
2. Many, however, know they cannot.
3. If you think you are qualified, then you are really not as qualified as you think you are.
4. It is the child's consciousness of need that brings him to the feet of his father.

D. Are you humble enough to do what you are called to?

1. We must be conscious of our inability to do whatever we are called to.
2. We require self discipline - our call requires more than we have in us to do whatever we are supposed to.
3. Our call requires patience, which we do not have, so we depend upon God.
4. We do not have a right to be comfortable in whatever we do - Jesus says that if you want to be a disciple you give up your right to yourself and you take up your cross.

E. Naaman and the Leper. (II Kings 5)

1. The humiliation of Naaman - he was humiliated that a prophet would not do what he expected him to do. A case of ability, but unwillingness.
2. So often we have our own ideas of how God is supposed to answer our prayers.
3. We have footnotes or an agenda for God.

4. Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India, made it clear to recruits that they were to do anything that was asked of them.
- a. There was no offer of glamour.
 - b. The only offer was a place to die.
 - c. Of the questions she sent prospective missionaries she asked if the thought of hardness repelled them and what they thought of the cross.
 - d. It is easy to want a job that has glamour or distinction.
 - e. Many came thinking that they were prepared, but suddenly found out that they had to rely on God to accomplish the tasks.
 - f. The speaker in her mission learned progressively of her need for God.
5. The king would have been the loser in the case of Naaman if he had been disobedient.

V. Your obedience matters.

- A. It is the path of joy. (Psalm 119:45)
- B. It matters to other people.

VI. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. What is usually going on when a person claims to have no ability to accomplish a task that God leads him or her to? Why do you think that God desires to use the unqualified?

2. What is the proper attitude of an “unqualified” person? How does this reflect itself in your own life? Where do you fall short?

3. What seems to be an impossibility in your life? In what ways would you naturally assume that God would not use you? How has that changed in light of the message?
