

Devotion Day 2

Today we will be looking to the New Testament to find another example of how God Uses Whoever. The key point of today's devotional is that God uses whoever despite what others think or say about them. Read through the devotional and answer the questions.

Activity:

This activity is super simple. All you need is a piece of paper and whatever drawing art supplies you'd like. Now think to yourself about the mean things people have said about you; every time you think of one, slowly crumple up the paper more and more. Eventually, your paper should be a ball, now, you should carefully uncrumple it. Take your drawing materials and write on the paper your favorite bible verse. The paper is rough, not good-looking, and was not treated nicely, it still holds a purpose as you have put on it scripture that is from the living word of God. Put it somewhere special, and it will remind you that despite the mean things people say about you, you still have a purpose.

Read: Matthew 9:9-13

One of Jesus' better known disciples, Matthew, was not always a follower of Jesus. As we can see in the passage, people did not like tax collectors. During the time of tax, collectors worked for the Romans, the despised rulers who oppressed the Jews. When Jews became tax collectors, they worked alongside the Romans to take

money from their people. This ostracized them, meaning no one liked them. But Jesus still loved him, and not only that, He went into his house and ate with him, which was a big no-no at the time. See despite what others thought of Matthew at the time, Jesus still called him. Matthew went on to write the Gospel and disciple many people spreading the good word and changing the world. God Uses Whoever despite what others think or say about them.

Questions:

- Do you ever feel excluded and cast out like Matthew? Or do you know someone who is like him?
- Despite what others think or say about you, do you think God still wants to use you? Why or why not?

You can be used by God despite what others say or think about you. Their gossip about you, insults, or bullying does not change God's look towards you. God wants to use Whoever; if he didn't, then Jesus would not have called Matthew (a tax collector) to follow him.