

Worth Doing Badly

Be willing to try rather than leave it undone
(Matthew 25:24-30)

Introduction: It is good to have high standards of excellence—but, in the Lord’s work, we cannot afford the luxury of declining to try a worthwhile task merely because we think we cannot do it as well as we would like. There are simply some activities in life where we must always do what we can.

I. “ANYTHING WORTH DOING IS WORTH DOING BADLY”

- A) This remark by G. K. Chesterton contains an important insight.
1. If a task deserves to be done at all, it deserves a less-than-perfect attempt while we are learning to do the thing better.
 2. In very few of the practical affairs of life is it possible to wait to act until we can act up to the standards of our ideals or those of others.
- B) Most things must be done relatively _____ before they can be done well.
1. It is practice that makes “perfect.”
 2. “A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault” (John Henry Newman).

II. THE SHIRKER IS NOT TRULY _____

- A) This way of looking at life and the Lord’s work does not require that we give up our appreciation of _____ and settle for _____.
- B) It does mean that, in valuable and urgent works like the Lord’s, we must have the true humility to do a mediocre job at first while we are trying to improve our skills.
- C) In truth, there is no more proud or self-centered person than the one who will not do anything except what he can “look good” doing.
- D) The truly humble person does not shirk work he needs to be involved in—he swallows his selfish pride enough to make a fool of himself, if need be, in the attempt to do something that is worth his effort.

III. THE LORD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL _____

- A) “The Lord is not looking for people who can do everything; He is looking for people who will try to do anything” (Isa. 6:8; Mk. 14:8).
- B) Whether we do things in a big or little way, our “sufficiency” is from God (2 Cor. 3:5).
- C) The Lord is never more pleased than when we do all we can with limited resources (Mk. 12:43,44; 2 Cor. 8:1-5).
- D) In all things our attitude must be that of Solomon at his coronation: I am _____, but I will do what I can . . . and _____ will help (cf. 1 Kgs. 3:7-9).

Conclusion: We are to be at the beck and call of our Master, ready to be used in whatever way He may need us—without regard to whether our efforts may suffer by comparison to someone else’s. If we are not faithful in the “least” amounts of ability, would we be in “much”? (cf. Mt. 25:23; Lk. 16:10)

My Notes: