

So... You think you are a nobody?

Let's look at **Mark 3: 18**...*Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus (Al Fa os), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot*

I want to talk to you today about a man that you probably know nothing about! In fact, I don't know much about him myself. He is a part of a famous group. He did great things, but there is no record of them. He helped change many lives but I can't tell you how. His name ...Thaddeus, He was one of our Lord's 12 Disciples.

We have all heard of First Baptist Atlanta, First Baptist Dallas, Saddleback Church, and others. We know names like Rogers, Stanley, Piper, Macarthur, Hunt and Jeremiah. But what about Pastor Smith of 2nd Baptist 'Little town USA' that has been faithfully pastoring the same 40 people for 20 years? What about Pastor Smith or Pastor Jones who have been paying off student loans for years while pastoring small congregation of 55 or less and working as bi-vocational pastors.

Are they unsuccessful because they do not pastor a "large thriving church"? I submit to you that if they are where God has placed them, doing what God has called them to do then they are successful in God's eyes. Paul tells us in **Colossians 3: 23** "*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters*"

Society today is consumed with **superficial measures** of success. God does not measure success the way that man does. The world may look at you as a failure, as worthless or as a nobody. And you have heard it so much that you believe it! But **if you are a child of God you are special! ...you are GREATLY BLESSED AND HIGHLY FAVORED!**

I want to take some time and look at Thaddeus' life and see that Jesus sees you as somebody even when the world may look at you as a nobody!

The first thing I would like you to see is that:

- I. **People May Not Know Your Name, But Jesus Does**
 - a. He is called "Lebbaeus" in [Matthew 10:3](#)
 - b. He is called "Judas brother of James" in [Luke 6:16](#)
 - c. He is called "Judas, Not Iscariot" in [John 14:22](#)
 - d. He is called "Thaddeus" in [Mark 3:18](#)

It is human nature wanting to be recognized. People go to great lengths to stand out from the crowd and to be unique and/or different.

How would you like to be known as “so and so’s little brother”? We wouldn’t want to simply be referred to as “the other one” That is basically the case for this man Thaddeus. Throughout your Bible you will not hear Thaddeus preach a powerful sermon. You will not see him (specifically) healing some one who was sick. You will not read that he ever cast out a demon. But it is very possible, dare I say even probable that he did all of these things.

Why do I say that? Because of what is recorded in **Mk 6: 7, 12,13** *“Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.;12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”*

Thaddeus may not have been a Peter, James, or John. He may not have penned a gospel or a letter. I submit to you that Jesus did not want him to be a Peter, James, or John. Jesus wanted Thaddeus to be ...Thaddeus!

You may envy the success that others have experienced. But you are not them! God has another path for you. It is a better path for you, simply because ***IT IS GOD’S PATH FOR YOU!!***

The world may not know your name. You may never see your name in lights or go down in the history books. Jesus knows your name and that is worth more than the notoriety of man. **You are special in God’s eyes. AND HE KNOWS YOUR NAME!**

The second thing I would like you to see is:

II. **People May Not Realize Your Worth, But Jesus Does**

Mk 3: 13-15 *Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve[a] that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

For whatever reason, we do not have an in depth record of Thaddeus’ service as a disciple of Christ. But just the fact that he is named among the twelve should show us something. Out of this great number of followers Jesus only selected 12. Thaddeus was privileged to be called to be in that number.

Whatever your service, whatever the task that Jesus has chosen for you, it is an honor to be chosen to serve. **Do not let the world tell you that your place of service is insignificant.** You have been chosen by the **CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING FOR HIM!** Out of over 6 Billion people in this world, HE CALLED YOUR NAME

He placed you in this specific church for a reason. Maybe HE placed you as a teacher of a class to have an impact on those adults/children... OR... He placed you as the mother, father or grandparent of children to have an eternal impact... OR ... He placed you on that assembly line to lead the person next to you to Christ.

Whatever your situation He chose **you** to serve Him.

Before the foundation of the world, YOU WERE PRECIOUS TO JESUS! *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love,” Eph 1:4*

You were worth enough to God for Him to send His Son to die for you! You were worth enough in Jesus’ eyes for Him to go to the cross for you! The world may say that you are a nobody but **GOD SAYS YOU ARE SOMEBODY!**

People May Not Know Your Name, But Jesus Does ...People May Not Realize Your Worth, But Jesus Does and we also see that:

III. **People May Not Recognize Your Effort, But Jesus Does**

In all my years I have never heard a sermon on Thaddeus. You probably won’t read a book about him. There are no sermon series on his life.

You may never get the pat on the back that you think you deserve. People may never see ALL that you do. They may not see the long hours and late nights. They may not know the financial sacrifices that you have made.

I am not only referring to ministry issues. There are rewards for those who are simply faithful wherever God has placed them - **Colossians 3: 23-24** *23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Whatever you do... do it with all of your heart. **God will reward your faithfulness!**

Though we do not have the back-story of Thaddeus' life. We are certain that like the other disciples he left everything he had in order to follow Jesus.

Notice a conversation between Peter & Jesus on the subject of rewards **Mt 19: 27-28** - *Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Though the world may not recognize your effort, though you may never be "rewarded" down here, Jesus has much more in store for you. You too have an eternal reward! – **Mt 6: 19-20** - *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

Every deed done in the name of Jesus will be blessed and rewarded. Men may not recognize your effort, but rest assured that Jesus knows and **HE WILL REWARD YOUR FAITHFULNESS!** **Mk 9:41** *Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward*

I know... at times ...You feel that you are wasting your time ...You are ready to throw your hands up and quit. The world says you should, the Devil certainly says you should, and you (at times) think you should! You may never have power, prominence, possessions, or prosperity ... but know...

You will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:10** - *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

At that Judgment seat there will be crowns given to the faithful. We may not know very many details of Thaddeus' story but I can assure you he stored up treasures in Heaven.

An elderly preacher was rebuked by one of his deacons one Sunday morning before the service. "Pastor," said the man, "something must be wrong with your preaching and your work. There's been only one person added to the church in a whole year, and he's just a boy." **The minister listened, his eyes moistening and his thin hand trembling. "I feel it all," he replied, "but God knows I've tried to do my duty."**

On that day the minister's heart was heavy as he stood before his flock. As he finished the message, he felt a strong inclination to resign.

After everyone else had left, that one boy came to him and asked, "Do you think if I worked hard for an education, I could become a preacher--perhaps a missionary?" Again tears welled up in the minister's eyes. "Ah, this heals the ache I feel," he said. "Robert, I see the Divine hand now. May God bless you, my boy. Yes, I think you will become a preacher."

Many years later an aged missionary returned to London from Africa. His name was spoken with reverence. Nobles invited him to their homes. He had added many souls to the Kingdom of God, reaching even some of Africa's most savage chiefs. His name was Robert Moffat, the same Robert who years before had spoken to the pastor that Sunday morning.

The world may not know your name; realize your worth or recognize your effort ...**BUT JESUS DOES!** And if He does, isn't that all that matters?

Fox's Book of Martyrs records that Thaddeus' was crucified for his faith at Edessa in A.D. 72. Others believe that he was pierced with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. Regardless of the method it is commonly accepted that he was martyred for his faith in Christ. He was bold and he was faithful... He was somebody!!

So, IF... You Think You Are A Nobody, well**God Says You Are Somebody** and **that is all that really matters!**