

God's Confidence in Misfits

The Christmas movie, **The Island of Misfit Toys**, is about where toys go that are no longer wanted or because they were broken. Other toys were weird looking with defects like a train with square wheels or a toy boat that sinks in water instead of floating or a water pistol that shoots jelly. But they discovered a new purpose in life when Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer found them and saved Christmas that year for Santa.

Many people feel like those misfit toys - unwanted, messed up, weird, or defective in some way. Have you ever felt like a misfit? I have. Have you ever been called a misfit? I have. Do you know people who feel like they are misfits? I do. There are so many people like that who need our encouragement and support.

That is why this lesson, God's Confidence in Misfits, is so important.

We are going to look at several people in the Bible who would be regarded as misfits and see God's confidence in them. Then we will consider the relevance and how we can apply this lesson to ourselves and others today.

1. **Abraham** had a problem telling the whole truth. Twice he told half a lie to save his own life - **Genesis 12:11-20; 20:2-18**. Abraham called his wife his sister in hopes that some thugs wouldn't kill him to sleep with her. But by doing that, he left Sarah unprotected from being raped. What a coward!
Yet he became the father of the Israelite people through which Jesus came into the world.
2. **Moses** was a murderer who lost his temper several times - **Exodus 2:11-12; 32:19; Numbers 20:8-12; Psalm 106:32-33**.
God still used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.
3. **Eli** was a bad father who did not discipline his sons, but God let him raise Samuel who became a great prophet and judge - **1 Samuel 2:12,22,26; 3:13,20**.
4. **Jeremiah** was the most pessimistic prophet burdened with sorrow.
God had him write two inspired books in the Old Testament, Jeremiah and Lamentations.
5. **Jonah** ran from God and was a self-willed bigot filled with national prejudice - **Jonah 4:1**.
Nevertheless, his preaching converted Nineveh.
6. **Hosea** had a bad family and a bad wife - **Hosea 1-2**. He still served as a prophet to Israel.
7. **Peter** had foot in mouth disease. In **Mark 8:32-33** he rebuked Jesus for saying that he would suffer and Jesus called him Satan. **Matthew 26:74** records Peter cursing as he denied that he even knew Jesus. Later Peter became the star Apostle spokesman on the day of Pentecost resulting in 3000 baptisms when the church was established - **Acts 2:38-41**.
8. **John** and his brother James threw a temper tantrum and wanted to destroy cities that rejected Jesus - **Luke 9:54**. Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder" - **Mark 3:17**. They also asked special favor to have prominent positions - **Mark 10:37**.
John wrote 5 of the 27 books of the New Testament including three letters of love.
9. **Matthew** was a hated tax collector with a house full of sinners - **Matthew 9:9-10**.
He wrote the first book in the New Testament.
10. **Mary Magdalene** had been possessed by 7 demons - **Luke 8:2**.
She was the first to witness Christ's resurrection - **Mark 16:9**.
11. **Paul** was a murdering zealot - **Acts 7:58** and the chief of all sinners - **1 Timothy 1:15**.
He became a world-wide missionary.

Here are just a few more. Jacob was a cheater, David had an affair, Noah got drunk, Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was a worrier, Thomas was a doubter, Sara was impatient, Elijah was moody, Moses stuttered, Zacchaeus was short, Abraham was old, and Lazarus was dead.

Now, what's **your** excuse? Can God use you or not?

God doesn't call the perfect. He perfects the imperfect!

Jesus assembled a bunch of misfits. They spread His good news to all the world in their generation.

God always took ordinary people and used them to achieve extraordinary results.

He can do the same with you and me.

What lessons can we learn and apply from these Bible misfits?

1. These people sinned. We cannot justify our sins by their lives.
2. God punished them for doing wrong. We also will pay the price and suffer the consequences of our sins.
3. God does not reject or write off misfits. People can still make a good life out of a bad life. God can somehow use everyone regardless of their past. Everyone can serve God in some way in spite of their mistakes in life. God gives everyone another chance to serve Him as long as they live.
4. God has confidence in people who the world calls misfits. Since God has confidence in us, we should have confidence in others and let them know it.

The church is much like an auto body shop where we take wrecked cars for repair and restoration.

We need to bring our broken lives to Jesus Christ even when marred by sin - **Matthew 11:28-30**.