

ANYONE CAN BE REPLACED

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Text: Luke 3:8-9

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” NIV

Although God wants to use everyone we must always remember that no one is indispensable—especially those who lack the proper desires.

I. IF WE WILL NOT PRAISE HIM, THEN ANOTHER WILL SING HIS PRAISE IN OUR PLACE (Luke 19:37-40).

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." NIV

II. IF WE WILL NOT BE A LEADER, THEN ANOTHER WILL LEAD IN OUR PLACE (1Samuel 15:26-28).

But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!" As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.

III. IF WE WILL NOT BE FAITHFUL TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL, THEN ANOTHER WILL SPERAD THE GOSPEL IN OUR PLACE (2 Timothy 4:9-10).

Paul writes, “Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica....”

CONCLUSION

We are not God’s children by right—but by grace. And whereas we cannot earn God’s grace, and should not feel that our salvation is in constant jeopardy, we are nevertheless expected to be fruitful. If we fail to be fruitful God will bypass us in His plans for the Kingdom. Such is the seriousness and the demands of the Kingdom.