

# **Men Without Names: “Now a Certain Man...”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## **Introduction:**

- A. A requested sermon from 15 years ago; the note said “key unnamed Bible characters lesson for Mike Vandine”
  - 1. I have done three lessons of unsung heroes and heroines of the Bible
  - 2. A bit of a challenge to find someone in the scriptures without a name that had an important role in pivotal Bible events
  - 3. The Bible writers were meticulous about remembering and recording obscure names for posterity
- B. I think Mike’s intended purpose for the request was a lesson on humility; I discovered several truths as I studied this lesson:
  - 1. Great events do not require great men for a great resolution
  - 2. In the service of the Lord, it does not matter who does the great work; it matters that the great work is done
  - 3. God often uses quiet, unknown men to shape the course of this world.

## **I. 1KINGS 20:28-43 (35) - THE UNKNOWN PROPHET**

- A. Ahab was supposed to destroy the army of Syria and Benhadad the king.
  - 1. Benhadad insulted God and mocked the Israelites
  - 2. God wanted him dead; Ahab had other plans, called him brother
- B. The unknown prophet
  - 1. Took a wound to make a point
  - 2. Addressed a king whose wife had a reputation as a prophet killer
- C. NT application - 2Cor. 4:8-11
  - 1. Do your part regardless of the cost to you or the lack of recognition

## **II. 1KINGS 22:29-38 (34) - THE UNKNOWN ARCHER**

- A. Ahab’s plans to conceal himself and preserve his life; Micaiah’s prophecy may have been roiling through his mind
  - 1. His plan failed
  - 2. An unknown archer drew his bow at random; he was just doing his job
  - 3. Alternate translation: “in his integrity”; shooting perhaps in a volley
- B. God was able to use an archer randomly chosen, who was making a shot at random, following orders given by a man who had no idea Ahab was in disguise in the chariot line fleeing from them
- C. NT application - Isa. 46:8-11
  - 1. There is no way to stop the full realization of God’s purposes
  - 2. There is no way to be certain how crucial or unimportant our role may be in it; it is best just to do our part, and let God deliver the increase
  - 3. 1Cor. 3:5-8

## **III. 2KINGS 5:1-15 (13) - THE UNKNOWN SERVANT**

- A. Naaman’s own servants gave him reproof and counsel

1. It is a blessing to have those about us with love and courage to faithfully tell us our faults and follies
  2. The reproof was modest and respectful. They called him Father
  3. When giving reproof or counsel we must make it appear that it comes from love and honor; and, that we intend, not reproach, but reformation.
- B. Great men would do well to listen to the counsel of subordinates - Prov. 9:7-9
- C. One need not be a great man to offer great counsel to a great man - Gal. 6:1

#### **IV. MATT. 26:17-19 - THE UNKNOWN HOMEOWNER**

- A. Luke 22:7-13 - Little is said about the man and no details are given of his response to their request
1. We could speculate for hours about the man and his role.
  2. It is, after all, the institution of the Lord's Supper, a weekly observance engaged by millions of faithful Christians for thousands of years.
  3. "Surely this man is important and his house is a landmark!"
- B. No, sometimes unknown means unknown. He is not important to the account, nor to the purpose for which his home was used
1. Some persons, like some interesting matters, are unknown because such knowledge is not necessary, and can at best be considered distracting; and, at worst, a potential source for digression
  2. Matt. 17:1-5 - Mount of Transfiguration - "Let us build tabernacles for Moses and Elijah."
  3. The presence of Moses and Elijah was designed to focus attention on Jesus; but, Peter was ready to engage ancestor worship
- C. Some persons must remain unknown in this world; God's revelation is complete; we have all that we need
1. Deut. 29:29; 2Tim. 3:16-17

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Our attention must be on the One who was named Savior before the foundation of the world, Who was the Son of God Who became a Son of Man, and Who has returned to heaven seated next to God the Father.
- B. Rev. 5:5-10