The Fabulous Few

Good morning all! Well…the Lord is still keeping us focused upon this little mini-series of messages concerning all of the details necessary for a person to be confident they are part of the cherished “FEW”. These are the FEW that Jesus mentioned who would be the only human beings He will allow entrance into His Glorious Kingdom. I won’t even have you turn there, because, by now, we all know the verses I am referring to by heart…right?

**Matthew 7**

13“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7-14.htm)But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a **few** find it.

**Week 1:** **Religious…but Lost** We looked at the broad range of beliefs found within 9900 various religions worldwide; and why ONLY Jesus’ way will be acceptable. All other varieties of religion will be rejected, and all who were hood-winked by their foolishness will be cast into the Lake of Fire, never to be given a second chance at getting it right.

**Week 2: Radically Transformed** We discussed the true Gospel preaching churches, and those within, who may, or may not, truly be saved. We stated that just because their lips repeated the Sinner’s Prayer after someone, at some point, they did not necessarily automatically become one of the FEW. We found through our study that “**Radical Transformation requires Radical Repentence**”.

**Week 3: The Few. The Faithful. The Free** We discussed the great privileges associated with being considered one of the FEW; and also the responsibilities that come by being part of this brother/sisterhood. We looked at how our Faithful Shepherd protects those that are His; and how each of His sheep know Him personally, and conversely, the depths to which He knows them intimately.

This brings us to today’s message titled “**The Fabulous Few**”. Our goal this morning will be to analyze the M.O. of one of these peculiar creatures that Jesus referred to as the FEW. We learned last week that there are other names designated to, and associated with the FEW. One of them was the term the ELECT.

**Elect** {**eklektos**} ek-lek-tos’… chosen; choice; select; Properly it means “chosen from out of”; especially as a deeply personal choice; literally, it means “chosen out of a personal preference”.

My question for us this morning, is this… **[Q]** After we have become one of the FEW, or Elect, and have been radically transformed, how are we personally affected? **[Q]** What literally happens to us, both **experientially**, as we live each new day, here on Earth; and **positionally** in a spiritual sense, as understood from God’s perspective?

**Experientially** is referring to all of the experiences that we partake of in the flesh, involving our mind, will, and emotions, while still here on Planet Earth. **Positionally** is referring to our position, or standing with God Himself, and His Son, Jesus Christ, in Heaven. **[Q]** What has happened to us? Another big question is this…

**[Q]** Once we start this journey, is there any option to stop? **[Q]** Could a true believer; one of God’s elect, EVER stop, even if they feel, in their flesh, like they might want to?

Truth is…**we are His, and He is ours**. The relationship, once begun, will never end. We are bonded to each other. We are a team; and there is no one I would rather be teamed up with, than the One responsible for determining our eternal fate.

**1 Corinthians 6**

19Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own;** [**20**](http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/6-20.htm)**you were bought at a price**. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

You, as one of the FEW, who have been purchased by God, through the Blood of Jesus Christ, are now **His** possession. You willingly gave away your life, to trade it for something much more amazing than you may have ever truly stopped to consider.

**Matthew 13**

44“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

What a wise choice for this shrewd man. No one was the wiser, and all thought he was only purchasing the dirt that was seen; and what was visible on the surface. He paid a hefty sum…all that he owned. He sold all that he had, to amass enough money to buy this field, which was worth more than any other human being knew.

For example…Let’s say you somehow gained personal knowledge that there were veins of gold, tons and tons of it, laying just 50 feet under the surface of a particular 100 acre plot of land, outside of Auburn. Let’s also say that this plot of land was being sold for $3,000 per acre. It is obvious that the average person doesn’t have $300,000 just laying around in a bank account to go and buy it. **[Q]** So what is your plan going to be?

Well…If you sold your car, and home, and cashed in all of your 401K’s, and sold every nice piece of furniture that you owned, and liquidated your savings, and checking accounts, and sold your rings, and snow blowers, and motorcycles for whatever you could get out of them at the time, you could possibly come up with $300,000.

You surely would have taken a huge loss on most of these items, including your house, and cars. Most people would look at you like you were out of your mind, and would be gossiping about you, for sure. You would have looked like an absolute fool, similar to crazy old Noah…or so it seemed to those of the world of his day.

 **[Q]** What were you thinking all the time, and as you had to deal with all of those people who thought you were crazy? (I know something you don’t know. What is hidden under the surface of this field, is worth literally billions, upon billions, of dollars. Someday soon, I will be independently wealthy.)

This is exactly what this little, two-sentence story, that Jesus shared with His Disciples, is trying to convey. That man knew something no one else knew. There was a hidden treasure in that old field he purchased, and it would soon all be legally his, as soon as the real estate deal was finalized.

**John 15**

1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-2.htm)He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes***a*** so that it will be even more fruitful. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-3.htm)You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-4.htm)Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

[**5**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-5.htm)“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing**. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-6.htm)If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-7.htm)If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-8.htm)This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

[**9**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-9.htm)“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-10.htm)If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-11.htm)I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-12.htm)My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-13.htm)Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-14.htm)You are my friends if you do what I command. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-15.htm)I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-16.htm)**You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-17.htm)This is my command: Love each other.

**Verse 5**: **Apart from Me, you can do nothing**. When you sold all that you owned, and bought that field called “following Jesus Christ at all costs”, you may have convinced yourself how smart you were to do it; and how you strategically made a plan, and worked it flawlessly. You may have convinced yourself, of…”What a good boy, or girl, am I!” Nothing could be farther from the Truth. We just read it, and Jesus put it all in perspective.

This section of Scripture in **John 15**, is a beautifully intimate portion, that only one who is truly part of the FEW can even begin to understand. An amazing concept that you and I, as the ELECT FEW, need to have a full understanding of, is found in **VERSE 16**:

**You did not choose me, but I chose You**. WOW… but I thought that I was the one who took the step forward, and made the leap into the Faith. I thought that I did this myself, and I chose Him, not the other way around.

This leads us to one of two favorite verses that we have chosen as taglines for Seekers…

**Jeremiah 29**

13You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

You may say…SEE, it is just like I was thinking. It was ME seeking Him. Here’s what you do not realize; and this is quite deep. It may take some heavy contemplation, and meditation on your part, to truly grasp this.

**Even while we thought we were seeking Him, if we would have looked behind us, and just over our shoulder, He would be right behind us. We would have seen that we were actually being sought by Him.** Literally, He was, and had been, putting things in place, using others, changing circumstances, and laying a trail of breadcrumbs on the ground, leading you to one destination… Salvation at the foot of the Cross of Calvary. WE didn’t choose Him, He chose us. Let me prove this to you, in His Glorious Word…

**Ephesians 2**

1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-2.htm)in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-3.htm)All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh***a*** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-4.htm)**But because of his great love for us**, God, who is rich in mercy, [**5**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-5.htm)made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-6.htm)And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [**7**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-7.htm)in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-8.htm)For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this is not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God— [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-9.htm)not by works, so that no one can boast. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-10.htm)For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

[**11**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-11.htm)Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— [**12**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-12.htm)remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope and without God** in the world. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-13.htm)But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

[**14**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-14.htm)For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, [**15**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-15.htm)by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, [**16**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-16.htm)and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-17.htm)He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-18.htm)For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

[**19**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-19.htm)Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also **members of his household**, [**20**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-20.htm)built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-21.htm)In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-22.htm)And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This set of Scripture is just about as rich as you can find in this amazing Book. The answer to our question of whether we were seeking Him, or in actuality, it was Him seeking us, is found here…

[**8**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-8.htm)For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this is not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God— [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-9.htm)not by works, so that no one can boast.

First of all we have to understand the word **Grace** {**charis**} khar’-ece… favor; kindness; as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ; favor. It’s cognate meaning is this…disposed to; inclined; favorable towards, leaning towards to share a benefit.

Folks, Jesus is ALWAYS leaning toward us; especially toward those who are part of His cherished Elect; but what is even more amazing…He did it even before we belonged to Him…while we were still “far off”, separated, and totally disobedient.

**Verse 8** goes on to tell us that there was a vehicle used to our being **Saved {sozo}** sode’-zo… healed; rescued; preserved; properly…deliver out of danger and into safety; which refers to us being rescued, and delivered from the penalty, and power, of sin.

The vehicle used leading us to salvation was us navigating through the passageway of **Faith** {**pistis**}pis’-tis… belief; trust; confidence; to be persuaded; This is much different than the human ability to trust someone. This is God-birthed confidence, and diametrically different from anything we could have ever mustered up in our flesh.

**[Q]** Why? (The Apostle Paul told us) **Keep your finger in Ephesians 2**

**Romans 7**

18For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.***c*** For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

We are not equipped, in our flesh, to make the steps necessary to seek God. It can only come when God, through our openness, and willingness, births within us that deep desire to make this critical decision, to follow Him, at all costs.

So since we had no hope of making the right decision, and were not capable of this, He had to do even that for us…give us the gift of Faith, so that we could tap upon His gift of eternal life, found in trusting His Son. That is exactly how the Scripture reads here…

[**8**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-8.htm)For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and **this is not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God— [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-9.htm)not by works, so that no one can boast.

When we read this, in context, we will see that the object of the phrase “this is not of yourselves”, is referring to the preceding word…Faith. So, to understand this fully, God’s Word is making something very clear… Even your faith to believe, which in turn brought His grace, was not yours…but a **GIFT** {**doron**} do’-ron… present; focusing upon the free nature of the gift; not coerced; spontaneous; referring to a ceremonial sacrifice.

**[Q]** Do you see it? (He freely gave us, not only the **grace** (favor; kindness), and the **faith** (ability to be persuaded) to access the grace; but prior to that, the ultimate gift of sacrificing His only Son, Jesus Christ. He gave us the complete package of Gifts. We had nothing, nor could have had nothing, to do with it, because we were totally incapable of doing any of it on our own merits).

**[Q]** Why would He do this?

**Ephesians 1**

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God’s holy people in Ephesus,***a*** the faithful in Christ Jesus:

[**2**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-2.htm)Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[**3**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-3.htm)Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-4.htm)For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love [**5**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-5.htm)he***b*** predestined us for adoption to sonship***c*** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— [**6**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-6.htm)to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-7.htm)In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace [**8**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-8.htm)that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-9.htm)he***d*** made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, [**10**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-10.htm)to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

[**11**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-11.htm)In him we were also chosen,***e*** having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, [**12**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-12.htm)in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-13.htm)And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [**14**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/1-14.htm)who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

WE, above all other human beings on Earth, are truly blessed. We have been chosen, stalked, given all we need, and made heirs of His Glorious Kingdom.

Now the big question… **[Q]** Are just the Elect, and the cherished FEW, the only ones on Earth that God has chosen?

**John 3**

16For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-17.htm)For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-18.htm)Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-19.htm)This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-20.htm)Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-21.htm)But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

**Whoever** {**pas**} pas… All; the whole; every kind of; Properly, it means “All, in the sense of considering each and every part”; with an emphasis on one piece at a time.

When God says “whosoever”, or “whoever”, He means exactly what He says. He wants EVERY part to respond to His unbelievable Gift. It is free… It is accessible… It is everlasting.

**2 Peter 3**

8But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-9.htm)The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance**.

[**10**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-10.htm)But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.***a***

[**11**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-11.htm)Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [**12**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-12.htm)as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.***b*** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-13.htm)But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

[**14**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-14.htm)So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-15.htm)Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-16.htm)He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

[**17**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-17.htm)Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/2_peter/3-18.htm)But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

I had asked the question before we read this… **[Q]** Did God only choose the Elect?

We found the answer in **Verse 9** here: God is not willing that **ANYONE** should perish. He wants every one of the all…Man, woman, child, white, black, brown, yellow, red, and on, and on, to fall in total repentance at the foot of Calvary.

**Anyone** {tis} tis… any certain one

He leaves none out, and gives all exactly the same opportunity to accept His gift of grace, and faith, as the means to access His amazing Gift of Salvation.

You, and I, who have realized the location of the treasure, sold all that we have to obtain it, and have received our title deed to Heaven, are of all people, most blessed. We have it all…both here and now, and there and forever.

**[Q]** Why would anyone in their right mind not choose such an amazing Gift? (Therein lies the problem…they are not in their right minds)

As Jesus told us in **John 3**: People loved darkness instead of the light.

Listen to this one final, beautiful set of verses, concerning those FEW who choose to follow, during this lifetime…

**Revelation 22**

1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [**2**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-2.htm)down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-3.htm)No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-4.htm)They will see his face, and **his name will be on their foreheads**. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-5.htm)There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

**John and the Angel**

[**6**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-6.htm)The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

[**7**](http://biblehub.com/revelation/22-7.htm)“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

**[Q]** Is His Name written on your forehead? Are you sealed until the Day of Redemption? Are you one of the FEW?

If not, there is no better day than today. The Gift is still available. It is right before you, and better yet, is totally free. It will only cost you your life.

In closing, listen once again, to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ…

**Mark 8**

34Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [**35**](http://biblehub.com/mark/8-35.htm)For whoever wants to save their life***b*** will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.