

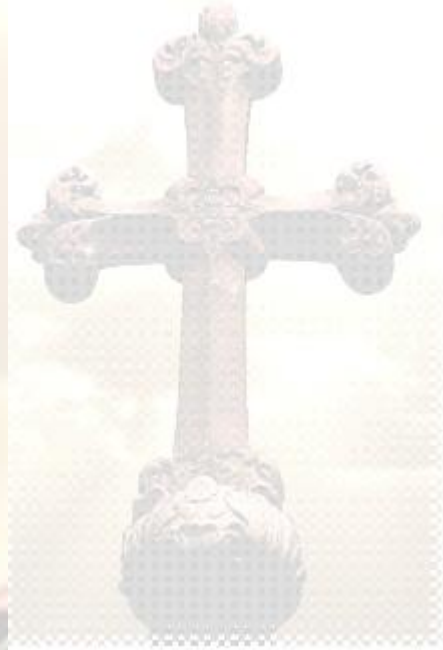
Loyal Followers

By Gail Keffer

There is a wonderful old song that says “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back.” These people did just that. And, that is all that Christ asks of us - to “follow” in the way He taught. The people in this series were loyal followers. It wasn’t easy, but very seldom is anything worthwhile easy!

The people who were loyal followers were Aaron, Samuel, Barnabas, Gabriel, Isaiah, Joshua, Moses, Priscilla and Aquila, and Elisabeth and Zachariah. Others were loyal followers also, but I have picked these to include in the study. They weren’t “household names” like Paul or Peter or John the Baptist. But they were important. Many people are like them today. They don’t want to be in charge. They will do their share as they are asked. And without them, those who are in a leadership position cannot succeed. Both are equally important.

The studies can be used for individual devotions or for a study group situation. Although the times have changed, the people are still the same. We still need leaders and loyal followers to accomplish God’s task on earth.



Aaron

“The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went, and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.” Exodus 4:27

Aaron was the brother that helped Moses as he tried to free the people in Egypt and the brother that caused Moses a lot of problems while trying to be helpful.

When Moses told the Lord he could not do what he asked because he was not a good speaker, God told him to get Aaron to help. He did, and God blessed them both in many ways. Aaron was very ambitious. Moses was modest in many ways. The Lord told Moses that he should tell Aaron what had been revealed to him and that Aaron would help in his struggle to free the people. Moses told Aaron what the Lord said, the signs which they would be given, and the charges they were to heed.

Aaron responded and did what the Lord had told Moses to do. He said the right words, and showed the right signs. However, the Lord did not act quickly enough to suit Aaron. In fact it was many, many years. Aaron got weary and decided he would do some other things along the way that were not commanded by God. He assumed power and got himself in trouble. He lost the trust of the Lord and lost the faith of many of the people. He built a golden calf at one time because Moses was not there to help him over the trying times which had lasted for many years. He was not near as patient as Moses. He “meant well.” But, he had to be disciplined many times by God. Still, God blessed Aaron as Chief Priest.

How many times we mean to do the right thing. We have been given the signs of God’s power and beauty. We do fine until we decide we can handle it better than God. I know that I need patience at times! I have a cartoon my son gave me several years ago that reads “Dear Lord, I need patience, and I need it right now!” Through all of this, God uses us if we allow him to do so. He used Aaron for many good causes. But, he had to discipline him, just as He needs to discipline us at times. We need to learn that we can’t control everything.

How we respond to this discipline is important. Do we accept it and try to do better and let more of God shine through us? Do we rebel and say “Well, the church doesn’t need me. I can use my talents somewhere else?”

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, you have given us so much and yet we often decide we need more money, more power, and more attention. Help us to realize that all we have comes from You, and then help us to seek to do your will and not assume we have the power to do anything except through you. Amen.

1. Why are we hesitant to speak up when we know the Lord has promised to be with us?
2. What can happen that makes us feel we can handle things without the help of God?
3. Have we lost sight of our real goal? Do we assume too much power?
4. Can we sometimes cause problems for God and other people when we are trying to be helpful?

Barnabas

“But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.” Acts 9:27

Many of us would like a friend like Barnabas. He was kind; a man of his word; and he dared to stand up for someone when others didn't want to get involved. He did much traveling with Paul as an apostle; he along with Paul was not one of the original disciples. His belief was strong and he helped to convert many people to Jesus. Paul and Barnabas, apostles or messengers, were designated according to God's purpose at a given time.

We know a lot about him from just one incident. When Saul, later to become Paul, was blinded on the road to Damascus, it was Barnabas that took this man who had hurt so many people and took care of him because he believed that he had been converted. Saul was not well liked; the disciples knew well that he had been involved in the martyrdom of Stephen. Barnabas had faith, stood up to the crowd, and told them that Paul was a new person who could be trusted. He saw a new man; he told the disciples he believed Paul's conversion and trusted him to be a leader.

Barnabas realized the disciples needed some financial support for their ministry. He sold some of his property and gave the money to the disciples. He was a man who practiced what he preached.

As the apostles traveled to different areas to preach, Barnabas was also involved. He sometimes went with Paul and sometimes he would take another one of the younger men with him. Paul and Barnabas faced many difficult times, but never lost their focus on spreading the word of God.

We can look to Barnabas as an example of a good Christian life. People of his day admired him for his work. Unlike many of the original disciples, he never experienced violence or stoning while ministering to others.

When we moved to the area where we now live, the church had a woman who helped in the infant nursery named Mary Lou. After approximately 50 years in the position, she retired. During that entire time, she helped with children, their children, and eventually their grandchildren. She was amazing; everyone loved her – regardless of age. She wasn't always going around with a smile painted on her face. She was just always sincerely pleasant and thoughtful. I think Barnabas was this kind of person. If he saw something that needed help, he helped. These people are hard to find. They are a real jewel to count among our friends. Yes, sometimes people take advantage of them, but I feel sure that Barnabas and Mary Lou never held a grudge, but always prayed to help in any way they could. We should all be more like Barnabas and Mary Lou.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for the many gifts which we never take time to list. Among those, we count your love as a given. Help us to realize that you gave your life so that we may have eternal life. Then, dear Lord, help us to live our lives like Barnabas and seek to spread the good news of salvation and not be offensive to others. Help us to live our lives so that others will know we are Christians by our love. Amen.

1. Are we able to be a friend like Barnabas was to someone?
2. How can we know when we have a real friend?
3. What sometimes stands in our way of being a true friend to others?
4. There is an old song that says “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear” Do you know that friend? How can we become a friend to others?

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Elisabeth and Zachariah

“But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zachariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.” Luke 1:13 KJV

It seems that sometimes God waits until we are a little older to let us know about a specific task he wants us to do -- some after retirement, some when very young. When we put ourselves in God's hands, we have to be prepared for whatever comes. Elisabeth and Zachariah were given a specific task in their later years of life.

Elisabeth and Zachariah were very good people and honored God. Zachariah served as a priest and Elisabeth was a cousin of Mary who would become the mother of Jesus. They had never been able to have children and so they felt the stares from others who had.

One day while Zachariah was doing his duties as a priest, an angel, Gabriel, appeared to him and told him that his wife Elisabeth was going to have a child. Further more, they were to name this child John, and he would be filled with the Holy Spirit and be a delight to many people. Zachariah could not believe this. He said, "Do you expect me to believe this? I'm an old man and my wife is an old woman."

The people in the sanctuary were waiting for Zachariah to return and continue the service. When he finally came out, he could not speak. The people knew he had seen a vision. From then on until his son was born he could only communicate using sign language.

After a short time, Elisabeth got pregnant. She reacted by going off by herself. Perhaps she was just so happy that she wanted to be alone and relish this joy that she had never had before. Perhaps she needed to be alone to learn to accept what was happening to her at her age. In the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent to a little village of Nazareth to a young virgin, Mary. She also would become a new mother, but in a much different way. Elisabeth's son would prepare the way for Mary's son. After Mary was with child, she went to see her cousin, Elisabeth, and Zachariah. When Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. These two women had a blessing that no one else would ever have.

In due time, Elisabeth bore a son. On the eighth day, they went to the temple to circumcise the baby. The people wanted to name him Zachariah after his father, but Elisabeth said his name was to be John. They didn't accept her answer and asked Zachariah. He wrote "His name is to be John." Then Zachariah's mouth was now open, his tongue loosened, and he was talking, praising God! That son would become John the Baptist. He was blessed to be the one to tell of the Christ to come.

Prayer: You are an awesome God, a God who loves us as we are, and trusts us to do your will. Help us to be willing to follow wherever you lead us regardless of our age, our financial situation, or our own personal wishes. Amen

1. How do townspeople today react when they hear something that they think could not be true? Do they go to the source and question, or do they just gossip?
2. Why did God take speech away from Zachariah?
3. How do you think Elisabeth felt about the situation? How did Mary's visit help her?
4. What is the significance of this story for our lives today?

Gabriel

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,” Luke 1:26

Has an angel ever appeared to you? It could. Angels are mentioned 117 times in the Old Testament and 180 times in the New Testament. The angel Gabriel who many think was the most important because he was called by name, and because he had an awesome assignment, is probably the one that most people accept or reject.

How do you feel about angels? Are they real? Could one appear today? The angel Gabriel was sent to earth during the lifetime of Daniel to interpret a vision. Daniel doubted at first. But, afterward he had time to think things through and realized that it had indeed been an angel sent from God, because only Daniel was able to interpret the vision.

Then Gabriel was sent again. This time he was sent to Zachariah a servant of the Lord who worked in the temple. Zachariah was paralyzed with fear. The Angel told him to not be afraid. He and Elisabeth were going to have a son, and he will make not only you and your wife, but many people happy. He will be a forerunner of the Christ.

Then Zachariah asked the angel if he expected him to believe that. After all he and his wife, Elisabeth, were old. The angel then told him that his name was Gabriel and because he had doubted he would not be able to speak until his son was born. He told him that God's will would be accomplished through him in God's time!!! Was that an honor, or a punishment?

Then Gabriel is sent down a third time. This time he goes to Mary and tells her that she will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be Jesus. She also doubts because she is a virgin and he tells her that the baby will be the Son of God. Can you blame her for not believing at first?

There are many things in life that we don't understand. I was told that as a child I was very inquisitive. I do remember my grandmother quoting to me that the Bible said “Now we see through a mirror darkly, but then we shall see face to face.” Her interpretation of this was to make me realize that I was not supposed to know everything on this earth, but I was to trust and have faith and everything would be o.k. Her words have come back to me many times.

Did an angel appear to Zachariah and Daniel named Gabriel? I only know that I believe he did. I believe that an angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary. Do I believe that angels can appear to us today? I don't know of anyone that has had one appear to him/her with wings and robed in white today. But I know that there are people that have been called angels because of the help they have given to others. I believe that God has and will send some of us out to be angels to other people.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we read your Word, and we wonder. Not because we don't believe you, but because we are only seeing with our human minds and eyes. Help to realize that you are all knowing and will provide the best for us, and help us to understand if we have faith to listen. Amen

1. Do you believe in angels? Angels were messengers many times in the Bible. Is it the Word of God? Was Gabriel a special angel because of the work he did?
2. Can angels be either male or female? Can a child be an angel?
3. Would you ever want to be an angel to someone else?
4. What does an angel look like?

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Isaiah

Isaiah was a prophet in the Old Testament. A prophet is not a predictor of the future; he gives a promise about the future that he has received from God. In the book of Deuteronomy, we are told that prophets received their revelations of the future from God and if the prophecy did not come true or take place, it was not from God.

Isaiah is considered by many to be the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, and many of his prophecies have come true. His most important prophecy, and the one that we believe and some others do not, is the birth of Christ. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promise Isaiah wrote, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

But in all due respect to the people in Isaiah’s time, he was telling these things approximately seven to eight hundred years before the birth of Christ.

Isaiah wrote about a person who would come and prepare the way for Christ. That person became John the Baptist who did come to earth and laid the groundwork for Jesus.

Isaiah was in Judah most of his life. But he did spend time in Israel. He saw many wars; the most dramatic was the war between Israel and Judah. Scholars feel this was a burden for Isaiah, and he worked hard to try to tell the people that something wonderful was coming. When Jesus was on earth he often quoted from the book of Isaiah because the theme of salvation was present throughout Isaiah’s writings.

One of his prophecies did not come true until 1948. Israel declared independence without a war, but then was engulfed in war, with the surrounding nations, within hours of its declaration. Isaiah wrote in his last chapter, verses 7-10 THE MESSAGE, “Before she went into labor, she had the baby. Before the birth pangs hit, she delivered a son. Has anyone ever heard of such a thing? Has anyone seen anything like this? A country born in a day? A nation born in a flash? But Zion was barely in labor when she had her babies! Do I open the womb and not deliver the baby? Do I, the One who delivers babies, shut the womb? ‘Rejoice, Jerusalem,

We can see now that many of his prophecies did come true. We see the worldwide dispersion of Jews, the worldwide persecution of Jews, the recent worldwide migration of Jews back to Israel during the past century, the recent re-establishment and restoration of Israel, and the worldwide impact that Jews have had on the world. Little could the people of his time realized how right he was. In fact, he probably could not fathom what had been revealed to him by God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have given us such great knowledge, some times much more than we can absorb. You gave Isaiah such great prophecy. Help us to study Your Word and to try to follow it. Most of all help us to have faith that you will never lead us astray, if we ask for your guidance. Amen

1. With wars and rumors of wars, why did God pick that time to have Isaiah reveal the wonderful happenings of the future? Why is it not told to us in a more simple way?
2. If a prophet told you of a wonderful coming event, how would you receive this news? Have you ever seen a prophecy come true?
3. If you could put yourself in the position of a prophet, how would you feel?

Joshua

“And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Thine eyes have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the Lord do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest.” Deut. 3:21

Many of us have heard the story of how Joshua marched around the city of Jericho and the walls fell down. We may have a hard time believing that they did not use any force to do this. But, if we study the story of Joshua in the Bible we know that he and Caleb were told they would be blessed and they would win because of their great faith. Jericho was only the first of many battles. His ambition covered seven years of war and drove out many other tribes.

Joshua took Moses' position as leader of the Israelites. Because of his faithfulness, he was chosen by God to take the people into the Promised Land and he knew that God would be with him all the way. Joshua, not Moses, was the one that would lead his people and fulfill the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

We, like Joshua, are also working on this earth. Sometimes we pray and want a result, but the result that we have imagined in our mind is right away. But, God doesn't always answer right away. Sometimes it takes years. We know that God will answer. If things do not happen in the way and on the time schedule that we have planned, we sometimes lose faith and try to do it our way. We like the disciples have faith to walk on water, but only if we know where the stones are! The Israelites lost their entrance into the Promised Land because they did not have enough faith. We want to see things happen NOW. We have not seen God's overall picture. We can, like the Israelites, lose the biggest blessing of our life because we are too impatient. We can't see the big picture.

The Bible says that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth and teach us all things. God is our personal Guide and Teacher in this life. If God puts a call on our life, and we don't follow the specific instructions and leadings on how to get there, we will never succeed. We have our own ideas many times. Joshua followed the plan set out for him by God and he succeeded.

In a well known play the line is given that whenever God closes a door, He always opens a window. If God is calling us to go through a door or window, we can be sure that we will have the full power of God operating through us to achieve total victory just like Joshua did!

We just need to keep looking for God's plan and allow God to reveal it to us in his time. What he did for Joshua, he will do for us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have offered us so much and we don't know how to handle it. We have become greedy in our desire to get more, not realizing that the more earthly power we get, the less we rely on God's power to help us lead a really prosperous life. Help us to be like Joshua and rely on God's love each day and know that we will have a rich and complete life like we could never have bought with earthly treasures. Amen.

1. Do you believe that God makes the same promise to you for a rich and full life that was made to Joshua?
2. How can we go about finding the plan set for our lives?
3. What are the obstacles that keep us from depending fully on God's grace?
4. Does God punish us for not seeking the plan made for us? How?
5. Explain the phrase that God is just?

Moses

“But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"
Exodus 3:11

Moses may have said, “Why me, Lord?” Most people know the story of Moses and his being hidden in the water with the reeds so he would not be killed because he was a Hebrew. Moses went on to live a very productive life and to be a messenger for God, but he did not have an easy journey. However, we will concentrate on just his early childhood and his call by God to do his work and lead his people. There had to be an easy life out there, one without all the hassle and complications that surrounded Moses.

First we know that his mother lived in fear, but was putting him in the water a right choice? Through her action she showed her love, her faith in God, and hope for the future of Moses. But Moses was just as human as you and I. We are all called to do God’s work each day, and we often respond the same way that Moses, his mother, and his sister did.

After he had grown to be a young man, he fled to get away from the wrath of Pharaoh. Again, he was protected by strangers; he had married and was working. Then, he was called by God who told him it was time for him to go back to the land he had fled and help the Israelites who were being mistreated by the Egyptians. Moses reacted much the same way as we would. “Why me?” God did not give him a lengthy explanation according to what we are told. He only told him that he would be with him. Basically God told him, “I have said what I have said, now go!” God appears to us every day through his beautiful nature and He calls but not like the call he gave to Moses.

Are we ever called to go somewhere we don’t want to go, and even more to people that have threatened to kill us? We are called every day, every hour, but not under circumstances any where near those that Moses had to face. Every day, we have a chance to witness to our Lord by the actions we take on given situations. We have to go out into the world just like Moses did even though he wanted to hide in the hills where he was safe.

Prayer: Lord God, we know that we are a part of this wonderful world, and although you have given us everything, we sometimes want more, or we don’t want to stop and say “Thank You” because we are too busy enjoying what you have given us. And, in some small way we enjoy thinking we are responsible for the blessings we see each day. Help us to realize that you have called us, each in a unique way, to be your servants here on earth, to show that love, and to heed your command as You will. We know that you will never send us out alone because you are always with us.
Amen.

1. Are we ever called to help people that aren’t really the most desirable people to help?
2. Are we ever called to stand up for our Lord when we know it is not the popular thing to do?
3. How can we know that God is always with us and will never send us out alone?
4. What can we do today to show God’s love through us?

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Priscilla and Aquila

“The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.” I Corinthians 16:19

Aquila and Priscilla, husband and wife, were tentmakers like Paul. They like many other Greeks had been forced out of Rome supposedly over a discussion of Christ. We first meet them in Ephesus when Paul was proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ. They worked with him for one and one half years at least.

Paul was so taken by their faith and devotion to the Lord, that he asked the couple to accompany him on some of his missions of evangelism. Paul would preach a strong, forceful message about Jesus and His mission as the Son of God. However, Priscilla and Aquila were not just along to make tents to provide an income for these evangelic missions. They would invite people from the gathering where Paul had preached to their home. Priscilla and Aquila would quietly and effectively explain to their guests the message of Jesus upon which Paul had preached that day. Their manner of witnessing was very affective and many souls were won for the Lord due to their efforts. The three of them made quite an evangelistic team.

Priscilla and Aquila won many personal converts to Christ when they were not with Paul. One such convert was a man named Apollos, a former disciple of John the Baptist. After John died, Apollos began to preach what he knew the Gospel of Jesus to be; he had some success in his preaching. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preach, they realized that Apollos did not know the full gospel. Where Paul may have been abrasive in pointing out the errors of Apollos, the Christian couple quietly informed Apollos of the total Gospel of Jesus. Their loving manner and approach won Apollos over to preaching the gospel without degrading him for his shortcomings of his knowledge of Jesus.

Priscilla and Aquila were noncommissioned lay people, who like Paul, Peter, and the others, won souls for Christ. They accepted the great commission as a challenge to which every Christian should adhere. They gave not only of their tithe of money, but a tithe of time and talent as well.

We meet them back in Rome where they have established a church in their home and then later they are with Timothy in Ephesus. We know that Paul mentions their help again while he is in Corinth. Everywhere they went they witnessed for Christ. Paul said that they risked their lives for him. Their home was always open to people who wanted to know more about Christ and his works. They were lay people doing their job to help others who wanted to learn about Christ. It didn't matter if it was Paul, Apollos, a Jew, or a Gentile; they were available to help anyone who wanted to study God's word.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, you have promised to be with us. Help us to be willing and able to stand up for you and tell others even if we are not ordained. Help us to realize that the best way to teach is to live our lives according to your will. Amen

1. Do you know God's Word well enough to teach it to others? Are you willing to accept those who need to know more about your Lord and Saviour?
2. Could you spot false or misguided teaching?
3. Is there an "Apollos" with much zeal who needs you to lead him? What will you do to find him? When will you begin to instruct him?
4. What do you need to witness for Christ?

Samuel

“And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” I Samuel 3:10 KJV

Samuel is so important that there are two whole books about him in the Bible. For this devotional, we will concentrate on him as a young boy and his mother and father. You may remember that in Old Testament Biblical times, the men had several wives. Samuel's mother, Hannah, had not been able to have any children and the other wives were cruel to her and made fun of her. Her husband, Elkanah loved her, but she was not able to bear a child. One day she was so upset that she went to the Temple and prayed that she could have a child. She promised that if she could have a child she would dedicate him to serving God.

She conceived and had a son, Samuel. While he was very young, she followed through on her promise, and he was sent to live with Eli, the priest.

One evening, Samuel heard a voice calling him. Thinking it was Eli calling, he went to Eli and asked him what he wanted. Eli said, "I did not call you, go back to bed." A second time he heard the voice of someone calling and again went to Eli. Again, Eli said, "I did not call you go back to bed." The third time, he heard the voice and went to Eli. Now Eli realized that it was God calling to the young man, and he told him, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'"

When God called again, Samuel answered "I'm your servant, ready to listen." The Lord revealed to him great things that he had planned for Samuel and Israel. The next morning, Eli wanted to know what God had told him, and Samuel told him that God had great plans, and that there would be much blood shed for those who did not follow God's will, but Eli said that is all right with him. He knew that God was right, and that God knew best.

Much more happened in Samuel's life. Samuel served many roles in Israel. He became a prophet, a judge, and a military leader. He was widely recognized throughout the county as he did God's will. Also, Hannah was blessed with other children and she was accepted by the other women. She had followed through on her promise, and God rewarded her.

Probably one of the best known persons in Samuel's story is his anointing of a king named David. He was sent by God to the house of Jesse to find a new king. God led him to reject all the sons except the youngest, David. David would be the new King and he was of the House of David, of which Christ was born.

Prayer: Thank you for your unconditional love to us. We thank you that you have called each of us to spend eternal life with you in a house you have already prepared for us. Help us to show that love to others as we tell them about God's grace and love. Amen

1. Have you ever had anyone make remarks about you because you did not marry, or did not have children? People do it many times, not realizing the hurt they are causing.
2. Have you ever felt that God was calling to you? Have you ever felt that you had a duty to do because of a "dream"?
3. Why do you think that God chose Samuel? Does God choose people today?
4. Is there a danger in saying that you want to serve your Lord?

Notes: These references are given to help continuance of study for a particular person, and although the verse is given with the particular name, the reader will find a need to read some verses on either side of the reference to put the name into context. Many books have been written on the people in the Bible and many sources are quoted every day; I have tried to just list the Scripture references.

Aaron: “And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.” Hebrews 5:4. Although he is mostly seen in the shadow of Moses, he was himself extremely important. His life is given predominantly in Exodus, but he is also mentioned in many other books of the Old Testament including Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, I and II Chronicles, and Psalms. He is also mentioned for his loyalty in a couple books of the New Testament, particularly Acts 7, and Hebrews 5, 7, and 9.

Samuel: The book of I Samuel is almost entirely the story of Samuel beginning with his birth in I Samuel 1:20. Other references until his death in I Samuel 25:1 include Chapter 2:18-26; 3:1-21; 7:3-15; 8:1-22; 9:14-27; 10:1-25; 11:7-14; 12:1-6 and 11-20; 13:8-15; 15:1-28 and 31-35; 16:1-13; 19:18-24, and 28:3-20. Other references are made throughout the Old Testament in I Chronicles, Psalms, and in the New Testament in Acts and Hebrews.

Barnabas: This helper was a zealot in many ways. We first meet him in Acts 4:36. Other references in Acts include 9:27; 11:22-30; 12:25; 13:1-7, 43-50; 14:12-20; 15:2,12,22-25, 35-39, and in Galatians 2:1-9 and verse 13. As usual you will need to read a few verses on either side of these to tie them into the total picture of Barnabas.

Gabriel: Very little is actually in the Bible about Gabriel. Gabriel is mentioned in the Old Testament in Daniel 8:16 and 9:21. The best known reference is in Luke 1:19-26.

Isaiah: Isaiah is first mentioned in II Kings 19:2-6 and vs. 20; and in chapter 20:1-19. He is also mentioned in Chronicles 26:22; 32:20-32, and of course in the book of Isaiah particularly in chapters 1-39. The book of Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ in its later chapters.

Joshua: The book of Joshua chapters 1-24 are the life of Joshua until his death in chapter 24. We are first introduced to Joshua in Exodus 17:9-14 and his work with Moses and Aaron. Other references worth noting include Exodus 33:1; Numbers 14:6 and 30-38; Numbers 26:65; Numbers 32:12 and 28. In Deuteronomy we find references in 1:38; Deuteronomy 3:21-28; Deuteronomy 32: 3-23 and in Judges, I Samuel; I and II Kings.

Moses: The references to Moses are too numerous to list. He is born in Exodus 2:10 and his story continues until he finishes his work in chapter 40. He is also mentioned in Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, I Samuel, I & II Kings, Chronicles, Isaiah and the Psalms. He is mentioned in all four of the Gospels, and also in numerous other books of the New Testament.

Priscilla and Aquila: Little reference in Scripture is given about this couple. Most knowledge of them is based on verses in Acts 18:2-26, Romans 16:3, I Corinthians 16:19; and II Timothy 4:19.

Elisabeth and Zachariah: Their part in the birth of Christ is chronicled in Luke 1, and reference is made later to their son John the Baptist in Luke 3:2. Other than those references, there is not much known about them.