



TITLE: *“Qualified is Respected, Respected is Qualified”*

OPENING QUESTION: If God were to ask you, "Who are you?" apart from your career, your roles, or your achievements, how would you answer?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31— Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

God can and will use anyone who MOVES TOWARDS HIM, who HUMBLES THEMSELVES, and BOASTS IN THE LORD.

Churches crumble when they want only their “OWN KIND” to be involved.

Acts 4:13-14— When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

The only conclusion for these guys in Acts and those of us at New Walk Church is: We have been WITH JESUS.

Ephesians 3:20— Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: Ken's flaws made him look completely unqualified to represent a massive brand. When we look at our own past mistakes, character flaws, or failures, how do those things make us feel unqualified to do what God is calling us to do?



QUESTION: Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Why does God intentionally choose the "foolish," "weak," and "lowly" things of the world to accomplish His purposes?

QUESTION: How have you seen the local church be inclusive in your life? How have you seen it be exclusive?

QUESTION: How have these two differing positions of the church come about and what are the affects of it on His church?

QUESTION: When you read the scripture from Acts Chapter 4 that Pastor Gary shared in the sermon, what connection do you find in those two verses (13-14) for your story? Share with your group some of the changes that have happened in your life that could only be because of the fact that you have been "with Jesus".

QUESTION: Is there anybody you can share with, this week, that needs to hear how God has elevated you for His Kingdom when maybe you did not feel like it was possible?

QUESTION: Is there somebody you can share with this week about what it means for your life to have been "with Jesus".

QUESTION: Read Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Peter 2:9. How does knowing our identity as children of God change how we approach our earthly work and passions?

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: Where is God asking you to step out in faith right now, even though you feel completely unprepared, unequipped, or lacking the necessary resources?

QUESTION: What does obedience look like in that situation over the next 48 hours, regardless of how comfortable or qualified you feel?

QUESTION: Write down Colossians 3:23 on a note card or your phone. How can you intentionally shift your focus to working for God as your primary audience this week?