

Talk: Self image

God loves us and wants to work through us, even when we think that...

- We are a failure (**Moses**)

Moses was a failure. He was a failure as an Egyptian Prince, because he murdered an Egyptian, and he was a failure as an Israelite, because his fellow Israelites didn't respect him, maybe because he had murdered someone, maybe because he had been brought up as an Egyptian, maybe because he was arrogant.

He was a murderer. He spoke awkwardly and he was afraid. In his eyes, he saw himself as a failure.

God loves us and wants to work through us, even when we think that...

- We're not good or special enough (**Gideon**)

Gideon was the *least* important in his family. His family was the *least* important in the tribe of Manasseh. And Manasseh was the *least* important tribe amongst all the Israelite tribes.

In his eyes, Gideon thought he was a nobody who would never amount to anything, because he wasn't good enough or special enough.

God loves us and wants to work through us, even when we think that...

- We are unforgivable (**Peter**)

Peter screwed up royally; he screwed up big time, because when the chips were down for Jesus, he left Jesus in the lurch. He ran away when Jesus was arrested, and three times he told people that he didn't even know Jesus.

Peter had done something that was terrible and awful, because essentially, he had actually helped to crucify Jesus, and so in his eyes, he couldn't be forgiven; he was unforgivable.

But...

After Jesus came back to life, he met Peter on a beach, gave him breakfast and then forgave him. Completely. 100%! And then Jesus gave Peter responsibility for looking after people and for growing his church.

In Peter's eyes, Peter was unforgivable, but Jesus saw something else in him, something that was good and strong and dependable.

God chose Gideon, the least in his family, from the most unimportant family in his tribe, and from the most rubbish and weediest tribe in all Israel, to free Israel from thousands of Midianite invaders, and God did this using Gideon and just 300 soldiers.

In Gideon's eyes, Gideon wasn't good enough or special enough to amount to anything, But God saw something else in him, something that was good and courageous and loyal.

And then God chose Moses, to lead over a hundred thousand people out of slavery, to land that God had promised them.

In Moses' eyes, Moses was a complete failure deserving only people's contempt. But God saw something else in him, something that was good persistent and reliable.

And tonight, regardless of how you might see yourself, and regardless of how little you might think of yourself, God loves you and sees something in you that is good, and that he wants to work with and through. God challenges us to look again in the mirror, and this time try and see what he sees in us.