Is God crazy

Have you ever read a Bible story and thought to yourself, is God crazy? There are so many times in my reading of scripture where I just look up to heaven and say, God, what were you thinking? Like were you having a party up in heaven and had a few to many, I just don’t understand. Let me share with you some of the stories that I am talking about.

The first one I want to lift up to you is God choosing Abraham to be the father of many nations. We do not know why he moved to Gerar but we know what he did afterwards. After moving to Gerar Abraham began practicing deception and not relying on God for protection. Genesis 20 states that “There Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her”. He lies about his wife and says that she is his sister. Abraham had a problem. Apparently, he was married to the most beautiful woman in the world at that time. That caused a big problem. Every time he went somewhere, people wanted his wife and some would even kill him for her. And this doesn’t just happen once it happens another time. And I am left scratching my head wondering, God how could you choose this fool to be your servant. You brought this man, this man out of the land of UR, surely you could have picked someone better?

The next time my arms were up in the air again was when I started learning about Moses. I had seen the Disney movie growing up and you hear him chanting let my people Go!!! But its not really like that. Moses was a man that stuttered, this was a man that if he was not brought up by pharaoh and his family, he would have been an outcast because of his speech impediment. It bothers Moses so much he asks for his brother to be with him so that he wouldn’t have to talk. So when I first read the story I thought to myself, God how can you choose Moses, he killed a man and has bad at speaking and you are choosing him to be your mouth piece to the Israelites? God you must be out of your mind.

I thought surely after the first five books of the Bible we would be done with this nonsense of God choosing these outrageous people to accomplish his work, but I was wrong. We got to David, he takes down Goliath and everyone is really excited, you start to root for this man, and then as things get good I came to the story of Bathsheba, and I had had enough of David. He uses his power as king to prey on Bathsheba and cheat on his wife and then has her husband killed and I just turn to heaven and proclaim, God, what are you doing?

So then I get to the New Testament and I think, okay, Jesus has arrived, no way God keeps up these wild decisions and I of course was wrong. Jesus chooses a loud mouthed Peter who eventually has to be called Satan and denies Jesus three times, and then the persecuter, and murderer of the early church gets chosen to be the apostle to the Gentiles and I like the early church would have been skeptical as well. When they learn about Paul being chosen by god they think it’s a trick and it is not until Barnabas speaks up for Paul that the people begin to think twice.

God has to be crazy right, only a crazy person would use all of these people out of everyone alive to do their work. But that’s the thing about God. Gods ways are not our ways, Gods wisdom is not our wisdom.

You and I are not omniscient, we are not all knowing. We can’t know each other’s hearts. We can never see the whole picture. We’re bound by earthly limitations. There’s no getting around it; human beings can’t make perfect judgments with unadulterated wisdom and absolute knowledge—only God can and for this reason it often seems as if God has lost Gods mind at times, especially when deciding who God is going to use for his purpose.

What we constantly see in scripture is that God uses unlikely people, to accomplish unlikely goals, resulting in God being glorified. God doesn’t care about suspicious outward appearances, God is not preoccupied with what the “norm” is, God is not concerned with using who we might consider to be the best or most popular, God is concerned about what is on our hearts.

The reason I say this is because when we first look at who God chooses we can get caught up in our judgments about the people and can look at what can be considered flaws. But when we take each story to its conclusion everything begins to make sense.

Abraham was a liar and treated Sarah as a possession, he would leave the promise land at the sign of trouble but when he was put to the test and had to sacrifice Isaac, he was willing, in his heart he had faith in God.

Moses was a murderer and had a speech impediment, but in the end he had the courage to stand up to pharaoh and to yell out let his people go. He had the wherewithal to be faithful to God even when times got rough and would stand up for Israel when God had had enough of them in the desert. In his heart he was an extremely caring person. Even if outwardly we would dismiss him.

David was an adulterer and murderer and yet when all was said and done, he is said to be a man after gods own heart.

Peter was loud and obnoxious and yet he was the rock the Jesus built his church and eventually came to understand his place when he refused to be crucified in the same manner Christ was, and Paul persecuted the church and yet, had a zeal for God that caused him to be a leader in the early church and a person who spread the Gospel to Rome.

When we get past the outer and see to the inner, it makes sense why God chose such flawed people to do His work. In the same way when we look at ourselves and look past our own flaws and are able to see what God sees in us we are able to see just exactly why God has chosen each and every single one of us to partner in Gods ministry.

In first Corinthians 15 Paul exclaims that “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.”

It is by the grace of God that we have been chosen. it is by the grace of God that we are grafted onto Christ the true vine. It is by the grace of God we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit. It is by the grace of God we are able to partner with God. It is by the grace of God that Jesus died for us. It is by the grace of God that we are able to put party in a bags together for families that have suffered from domestic violence. It is by the grace of God we can work hard for the Lord. It is by the grace of God we can proclaim the good news of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord and help people come to believe in him for their salvation.

We might not always think God would choose us, but I commend you to read the stories I lifted up to you and internalize that yes, even you are chosen and called by God.

If I may take a lesson from Paul. I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened us because he judges us faithful and appointed us to his service, even though we are sinners that have our flaws. But we have received mercy because The Lord loves us deeply, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for us with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner of whom we are the foremost. But for that very reason we received mercy. But for that very reason we have received mercy so that in us, as the foremost, Jesus might display the utmost patience, making us an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the king of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

In the end God does not choose us because we are perfect, God chooses us like he chose Israel. They were chosen because they were the lowest of the lows and so when all went well no one in their right mind would think they did it by themselves, but, by the grace of God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So to us, God chose us flawed and all so that those who come after us can see that if God can choose Steven, God can also choose them. Your faults and perceived weaknesses do not disqualify you, it makes you all the more qualified.