

A SPECTACLE

1 Corinthians 4:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised.

1 Corinthians 4:9-10 (MSG)

⁹ It seems to me that God has put us who bear his Message on stage in a theater in which no one wants to buy a ticket. We're something everyone stands around and stares at, like an accident in the street.

¹⁰ We're the Messiah's misfits. You might be sure of yourselves, but we live in the midst of frailties and uncertainties. You might be well-thought-of by others, but we're mostly kicked around.

- Your job as an actor is to make the star look good:
 - the stage is the world
 - the script is the Word
 - the plot is redemption

1 Corinthians 4:1 (KJV)

¹ Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

- Paul speaks of two kinds of slaves:
 - MINISTERS – under-rowers (facing the direction they came from, do not determine the direction of the ship)
 - STEWARDS (managing part of someone else's house, must be found faithful)

Exodus 29:4 (KJV)

⁴ And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

- Aaron was consecrated by washing at the door of the tabernacle, in view of the whole nation - we are being cleansed while we are trying to cleanse others

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

- We are “wounded healers” – Jesus was wounded for our transgressions (wounds are open), bruised for our iniquities (bruises are hidden) - wounds are my deeds, transgressions are my "bent"

Romans 12:1 (KJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1 (MSG)

¹ So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

- “Present your bodies” is a technical term indicating the moment someone placed the sacrifice in the hands of the priest – they had to take their hands off of it!
- A “living sacrifice” chooses to stay on the altar!
- It all depends on whose hand it's in!
 - Basketball – Michael Jordan
 - Tennis Racquet – Pete Sampras
 - Baseball Bat – Mark McGwire
 - Golf Club – Tiger Woods
 - Violin – Itzhak Perlman
 - Shepherd's Rod – Moses *
 - Mud and Spittle – Jesus *
 - Slingshot – David
 - Five Loaves & Two Fish – Boy with lunch
 - Piece of Cloth – Woman with issue of blood
 - Three Nails – Jesus Christ
 - Your life ... ?