

**Episode:** Other Letters Series No. 15

**Narrator:** Eutychus

**Primary Scriptures:** Acts 20:7-12

**Story Summary:** God uses unlikely people in unlikely ways to accomplish his will

**Location:** Troas

**Time:** circa 60 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Acts 20:9

There are more than 3,000 individuals mentioned in the Bible, with almost two-thirds of them mentioned by name. Many of these are mentioned in lists or in passing, but hundreds of them are well-known to those familiar with the Bible. On of the things that most of them have in common is their being an unlikely person to be used by God. (Perhaps two of the few exceptions are Adam and Eve!)

Abraham was just an ordinary person living in Ur...then he accepted God as his only god. Moses was an eighty-year-old escaped criminal living as a shepherd...then he chose to obey God. Saul was a tall farmer and David a shepherd boy...then God chose them to be the first two kings of Israel. Paul was a murderer of Christians...then he saw the light. Those are some of the well-known people. Many others are lesser-known names or completely unnamed.

A slave girl changed the history of Israel by telling Naaman how to get healed from leprosy.<sup>1</sup> The centurion at the crucifixion of Jesus recognized him as the son of God.<sup>2</sup> During a long sermon by Paul, Eutychus fell asleep and to his death. All were unlikely people who God used in unlikely ways.

The slave girl's information led to a change in Israel's relationship with its persecutor, Aram. The centurion's recognition that Jesus was dead lead to certain prophecies being fulfilled and the official certification of his death. Eutychus's death led to his resurrection by Paul.

Why does God use unlikely people in unlikely ways? One reason is so that only he will get the credit for the results that follow. Jesus told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."<sup>3</sup>

Two seeming tragedies are described in Luke 13:1-5. Jesus tells of Pilate killing Galileans and eighteen deaths caused by the collapse of the tower in Siloam. Jesus made these two incidents famous forever by using them as examples why people should

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Kings 5:3

<sup>2</sup> Mark 15:39

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:9

repent, and that their deaths were not caused because they were worse sinners than others. Truly they were unexpected people used in unexpected ways.