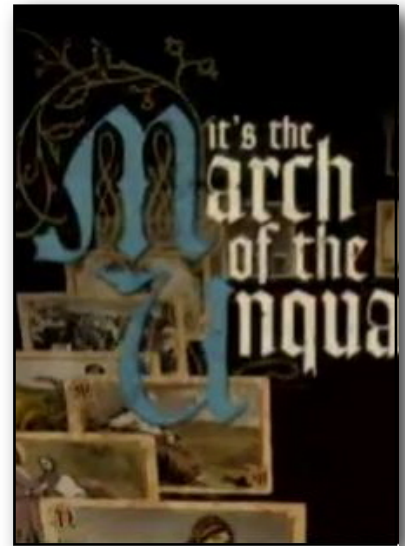


# March of the unqualified

“They admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.”



*Hebrews 11.13-14*

You've just watched a video that makes it clear that all the different people used by God in the Bible were not perfect. They all had problems or character defects and yet God still used them.

In Hebrews 11, there is a similar list of people. None of them had it perfect. Not one is a superhero. But they all had faith in God and God was able to use them.

As we live out our lives, it is easy to think that God couldn't possibly use me... or, at least, not use me until I've got it all sorted.

Hey, guess what? You will never have it all sorted. And you know something else, God isn't worried about waiting for a perfect day that will never come. He wants to work through you and in you right now, today, in every moment, warts 'n all.

## TASK 1

Read the passage in Hebrews 11:1-16 about some of those heroes in the Old Testament who followed God.

Think about what you heard on the video about how they all had things wrong with them, they weren't perfect and yet still they followed God.

Abraham, Noah and many other Old Testament heroes would sometimes build an altar to remember something God had done and also look ahead to what He would do in the future. They would build a pile of stones as a remembrance, an altar to God.

Take one of the stones and hold it in your hands while you pray. Acknowledge to God that you don't have it all sorted, but ask Him also for courage not to worry about that and courage to just go with Him wherever He leads and do whatever He asks.

When you've prayed, add your stone to the pile and help to make an altar of remembrance of what God has done for you but also this is an altar that looks to the future and what God can do with you next.

# Living sacrifices

“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.”

*Romans 12.1*



There is an old joke amongst preachers that says ‘the problem with living sacrifices is that they keep getting off the altar’!

In a sense that is only too true. Being a human sacrifice meant dying. It meant pain. You wouldn’t want to be on an altar and so, as Christians, it’s understandable if it feels painful sometimes for us too.

When God asks us to do something we don’t want to do, or he asks us to let something in our lives die... perhaps dying to our own wishes and desires... it’s hard to remember that He asks that of us in order that new things might spring up in that rhythm of death and resurrection that He gives.

The danger for us as Christians is that we either keep getting off the altar, or that we don’t get on in the first place! We stand at a distance, admiring the altar but never willing to put ourselves on it.

## TASK 1

Stand on the step ladder in front of you and climb up one or two steps.

Does the room look different from up here?

Sometimes we can stand back from the action, stay above it, admiring what God is doing but not wanting to risk ourselves and our own wishes.

Today you should have learnt that there is no such option for a follower of Jesus. Say sorry to God for holding back, for trying to avoid being a living sacrifice, for trying to admire it but not commit to it.

Once you've said sorry, climb down again.

## TASK 2

Move to the table. The holy table represents the place where the action is in church. It's where we celebrate Communion. It's like the old 'altars' from the Temple where they used to make sacrifices.

In Romans 12 it says that we are 'living sacrifices' and that being such a sacrifice is how we worship.

Draw a picture of yourself using this 'altar' to rest on. Think about your daily life and perhaps represent that in your art as well. Pray that God will help you to give every day to Him as worship, and ask for His help to be the sacrifice He calls you to be.

# Equipment list

## Station 1: March of the Unqualified

A pile of stones and (optional) a cross to place the stones in front of.

A copy of the video 'March of the Unqualified', available to view at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnoPIuENS-I>

## Station 2: Living Sacrifices

Step-ladders (the more the better, but not too high to avoid a health & safety nightmare)

Blank A4 paper and colouring pencils/pens

The page of instructions (blown up to A3 size)