

Be Remarkable, Not Perfect

Be remarkable not perfect. Perfection implies conformity to a set of imposed external standards. Being remarkable requires going beyond the status quo; it requires one to "shine".

The number of rules and regulations faced by the average individual is staggering. Most schools and businesses have a set of regulations that must be adhered to. Certainly, religions and governments have laws that must be followed. If one strives successfully, then the consummate level of excellence can be achieved. Perfection is the result.

The individual who makes the biggest difference is often not the one the world heralds as perfect or excellent. In fact, the individual under consideration will likely feel quite out of his or her element. Two examples come to mind. One of David's "mighty men" and Esther.

Shammah was a warrior who found himself quite abandoned and in the position of defending a "hill of beans". Not what Shammah had intended at that point in his life I feel sure, however, the Philistines and other armies of the era tended to destroy the crops of their enemies and the conquered. To prevent crop scarcity Shammah had to successfully defend the "hill of beans" (*Next in rank was Shammah son of Agee from Harar. One time the Philistines gathered at Lehi and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils. The Israelite army fled, but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. 2 Samuel 23:11-12, New Living Translation*).

Esther unwillingly was forced into the world's mold of success, only when she stepped outside of the accepted boundaries of society, was God able to use her to make a real difference in other's lives ("All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." They related Esther's words to Mordecai. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" Esther 4:11-14, New American Standard Bible)

The single white rose among a dozen red roses. To shine, an individual must recognize his or her area of giftedness. An area of concentration, a convergence, a point that can reflect brilliance, a wave on an otherwise tranquil sea. The world may consider it an imperfection, a flaw. However, God can take what the world has little use for and elevate its purpose. He can polish a talent or a willing heart to a sheen that faithfully reflects His light. Be remarkable. Shine!

Evan Todd Yeager, Ed.D.