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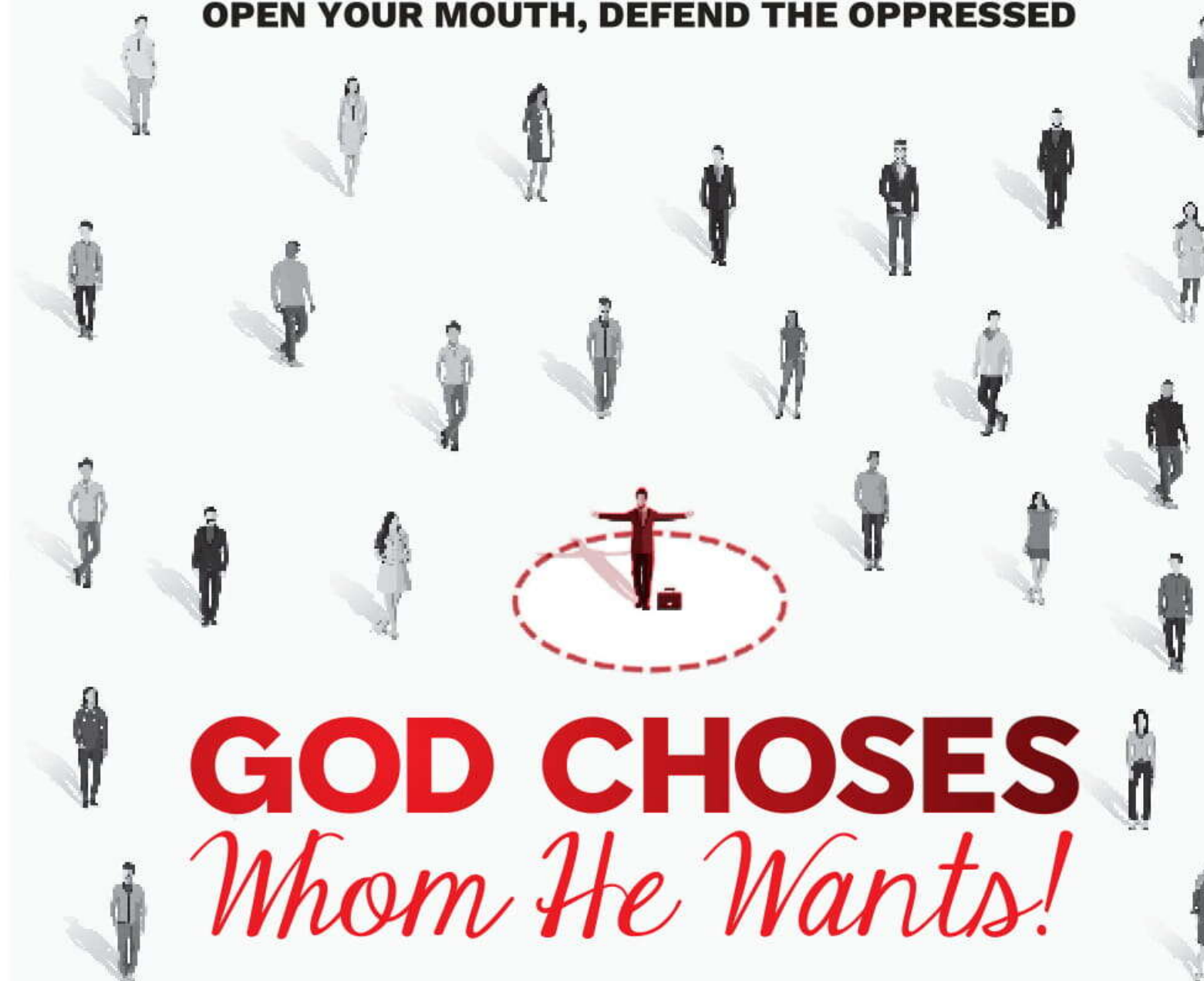
NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME:

OPEN YOUR MOUTH, DEFEND THE OPPRESSED



GOD CHOOSES

Whom He Wants!

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul proclaims, "... that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong." It is a profound and paradoxical statement. How can someone who is weak also be strong? What does this paradox mean?

Paul was writing to the divided Church in Corinth. Some of the believers there had rejected him because of his poverty and the lack of eloquence. However, Paul is pleased to be a servant of Christ because Christ himself became a lowly and suffering servant to redeem humanity. Christ is the servant who became for Paul his saving grace because of God's great love!

In the gospel, we are presented with another paradoxical situation. After listening to Jesus teach with wisdom, and on hearing about the miracles he performed in other places, the Jews at Nazareth were astonished: "Where did the man get all this?" To them, Jesus is only a carpenter, who belonged to a family who was very familiar to the people in his hometown. Can someone like Jesus, who is 'unqualified' in the matters of the Jewish law and comes from an 'ordinary' family, be used mightily by God?

We are reminded today that God chooses whom He wants. Human beings may have their views or standards as to what type of person should be chosen to serve God. They may focus a person's personality, theological qualifications or on how eloquently he or she speaks. But **God's standards are very different.** When God chooses and sends someone to speak on His behalf, the people will be convinced, "that a prophet is among them". Not because of the person's personality, qualifications or eloquence, but by the message he or she delivers or by the works he or she performs in God's name.

Let us not quickly reject or fail to listen to the poor, shabby-looking and less than eloquent brother or sister who shares God's message in our midst. He or she may not look much by human perception or standards. But he or she could be a chosen instrument by God's standards.

For it is through our "weaknesses" that we can be strong in our Saviour who uses whom he pleases. ✝

SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"My grace
is sufficient
for you..."

(2 Cor. 12: 9)

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Ez. 2: 2-5;

Ps 122: 1-4;

2 Cor. 12: 7-10;

Mk. 6: 1-6.