

Nails & Bulls

God led us providentially to a detailed study of the book of Isaiah, where we found several great lessons for men.

Isaiah 3 told God removing men to leave women and children ruling, with immodest women mocked in detail.

<https://letgodbettrue.com/sermons/index/year-2019/isaiah-chapter-3-slides/>

Comparing things is one of the Bible's favorite teaching devices, as frequent use of "better" and other comparative words and Solomon's proverbs show.

No two men are equal in the world or in our church – they will vary by God's investment in them and their efforts.

We compared the great differences between Saul and David before, and the terrible consequences to Saul.

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2014/david-or-saul/>

We compared the great differences between David and Joab before, and the terrible consequences to Joab.

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2006/david-or-joab/>

Comparing other men:

Abel ... Cain

Abraham ... Lot

Isaac ... Ishmael

Jacob ... Esau

Mordecai ... Haman

Paul ... Demas

The two men are Shebna and Eliakim.

Sinners are demoted, faithful men exalted.
The office is treasurer of David's kingdom.
One man demoted; the other promoted.
Let us be warned and encouraged here.
Every man shall bear his own burden.

What should we know about Shebna?

We meet him as Hezekiah's treasurer.
He was rather arrogant and proud.
Think of him like our chief of staff.
He was likely a foreigner, not Jew.
He was likely left over from Ahaz.
He likely conspired with Assyria.
He likely conspired with Egypt.

Thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say,

Isaiah 22:15

- As Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem, two men went two very different ways.
- All men go different ways ... no two men are equal in character or conduct.
- God watches all men, and so do His angels, and He rewards now and later.
- God's revealed will is in the Bible to do it ... His secret will He sends on you.
- These words ... *Thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts* ... is Jehovah's judgment.

What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?

Isaiah 22:16

- Isaiah confronted Sheba, like prophets and apostles, like any good preacher.
- *Who do you think you are ... building a glorious kingly tomb for your honor?*
- A stone tomb in Jerusalem was outrageously arrogant and presumptuous.
- Pride cometh before a fall, and Solomon's rule applies to men high and low.

Behold, the LORD will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee.

Isaiah 22:17

- God's sentence – *Listen! You will not die in peace for a state funeral here!*
- God would send Shebna into captivity and ignominiously bury him.
- Humble yourself under God's mighty hand ... He will exalt ... or He will bury.
- The fulfillment is not recorded. Sennacherib might have betrayed him.

He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy lord's house.

Isaiah 22:18

- Note *surely* – God would violently reverse his career and throw him away.
- Like a sling or discus thrower, a violent turn adds great centrifugal force.
- He would die in another nation – Assyria? – with a dishonorable discharge.
- The chariots he rode in for glory in Jerusalem would shame Hezekiah's rule.
- The Jews say he defected to Sennacherib, who tied him to tails of horses.

And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down.

Isaiah 22:19

- God, now in the first person, would drive Shebna out of his political office.
- He, now Hezekiah in the third person, would demote him to a mere scribe.
- Promotion comes from the Lord, but so does demotion (Psalm 75:6-7).
- Like Pharaoh and Haman, God may have wanted him to suffer before dying.
- There is nothing to fear about bad men in power. They do not last very long.

What can we learn by Shebna?

How you are doing now means nothing.
Past success does not indicate survival.
God hates pride and will destroy such.
God would violently destroy the man.
Humble yourself for God to exalt you.
God directly and indirectly governs.
Never fear corrupt men in power.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah:

Isaiah 22:20

- God can easily find a better man to take your place and do a far better job.
- God said this to Saul about David. Nabal thought about this before he died.
- God and Hezekiah demoted Shebna ... God and Hezekiah promoted Eliakim.
- Are you God's servant, as Eliakim is called, by faith and love in His church?

And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

Isaiah 22:21

- God is still speaking in the first person to Shebna through Isaiah. Ouch!
- Shebna's office and role and the trappings and respect would go to Eliakim.
- It does not matter who you are or what you do, God hires and fires unseen.
- God wants faithful men, who will take care of those under their authority.

And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Isaiah 22:22

- God told Shebna He would give the Davidic authority of his office to Eliakim.
- We speak this way when we give the key to the city to a visiting dignitary.
- Shoulders, the best way to carry, are a metaphor for the burdens of state.
- What a privileged position Shebna had, like Saul, but both lost everything.

And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

Isaiah 22:23

- The similitude of a nail is for not moving and for hanging burdens on it.
- When we put a nail or hook in a wall to hang things, we find a sure place.
- God chose the office; God chose the man; God established the man in office.
- God promised Eliakim would bring great honor to his family by use of office.
- Every man should fulfill his daily roles with the goal of creating family glory.

And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.

Isaiah 22:24

- The nail metaphor here is for hanging the needs of all family members on it.
- The family tree of Hilkiah, Eliakim's father, would benefit by his life in office.
- Hilkiah's family tree – the offspring and issue – is compared to wine vessels.
- The nail to hold up all family members would be sufficient for every need.
- Men! Do not settle as a sibling. Stand up and be counted for your family.

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 22:25

- Shebna's secure office and role that supported his family tree would end.
- When God speaks against a man, those relying on him will also be demoted.
- Our wives and children and grandchildren all depend on us. Be like Eliakim!
- This is not a women's meeting or church meeting. Men! Be like Eliakim!
- Your job ... glory ... peace ... value ... are only as good as your obedience.

What can we learn by Eliakim?

First and foremost he was servant of God.
How do you rank in public service to God?
Do you fulfill your offices to all under you?
Are you a glorious throne to your father?
Are you of benefit and value to his house?
Do you help or nurture all the downline?
You are not your own; others need you.

Life is a comparison and competition.

Shebna and Eliakim were examples.

Do not resent the pressure,
rather embrace it.

Will you be a **NAIL** in a sure place for
all those under you and for the glory
of your father's and Father's house?

This does not mean to be what your father was himself or what he wants you to be unless perfectly scriptural.

The greatest glory you can give your father's house is to be the godliest man of all your siblings and relatives.

Bringing home the bacon
is what pigs do well!

You have many more duties from God
for the benefit of those under you.

Life is a comparison and competition.

David and Paul were the best.

Do not resent the pressure,
rather embrace it.

David was the youngest of eight sons.

But he was all the glory of Jesse's house!

Paul could hardly be called an apostle.

But he was the greatest worker of all!

Nails & Bulls

God led us providentially to a detailed study of the book of Isaiah, where we found several great lessons for men.

A bull is one of the strongest and most independently minded creatures the LORD made.







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As Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean army besieged Jerusalem, the Jewish young men were worthless for those depending on them.

There is confusion and turmoil
in America today.

Doctrinal
Sexual
Moral
Political
Pandemic

Eliakim was a **NAIL** for
his father's house.

God created men ... sons ... to be
BULLS for their church and mothers.

A church is compared to a woman in
the Bible and needs **BULLS** for
strength.

A godly woman deserves and wants a
BULL like David was for Israel
and his mother.

There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she hath brought forth; neither is there any that taketh her by the hand of all the sons that she hath brought up.

Isaiah 51:18

- Jerusalem as a city is compared to a woman that had given birth to sons.
- Remember God's judgment at another time had been to take away men.
- All the sons ... the men and young men a city needs ... could not be found.
- A city ... and women ... need men to take them by the hand and lead them.
- Can your church ... mother ... wife ... depend on your virtuous strength?

The lack of male leadership and strong men is appalling today.

Which young men will answer the call to be righteous leaders among us?

These two things are come unto thee; who shall be sorry for thee?
desolation, and destruction, and the famine, and the sword: by whom
shall I comfort thee?

Isaiah 51:19

- The two things were the ruin of the Jewish church and loss of her leaders.
- There were no men ... no leaders ... to pity their case and comfort them.
- God is judging America internally, including the loss of strong male leaders.
- We do not have to cave and compromise with her. Young men, stand up!
- This is a men's meeting ... no girls or women allowed ... will you man up?

Thy sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as a wild bull in a net: they are full of the fury of the LORD, the rebuke of thy God.

Isaiah 51:20

- Young men are a great blessing ... when they use their strength for God.
- Glory of young men is strength (Pr 20:29) ... bodily strength is least valuable.
- Young men are like bulls ... fearless with great strength ... but they fainted.
- Fainting is a feminine term ... bulls have no fear and rise to finish any threat.
- Can your church ... mother ... wife ... depend on your virtuous strength?

Women rejoice when they
give birth to a man child.

*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her
hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child,
she remembereth no more the anguish,
for joy that a man is born into the world.*

John 16:21

But it kills mothers when those
boys grow up to be fools.

... a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 10:1

... and bitterness to her that bare him.

Proverbs 17:25

What will a BULL be like?

His conviction will last more than a week.

He rejects childish diversions to man up.

He goes through opposition or difficulty.

He does not fear enemies or hard work.

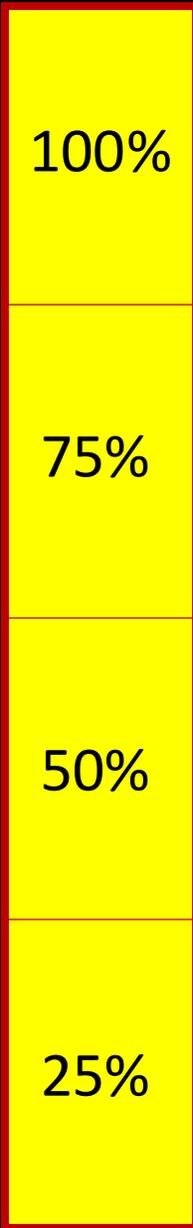
He rules his spirit and rejects moods.

If cast down, no one knows about it.

If cast down, he is never destroyed.

Everyone in this room was born male.

God chose your sex and made you to
be a leader in your family and church.

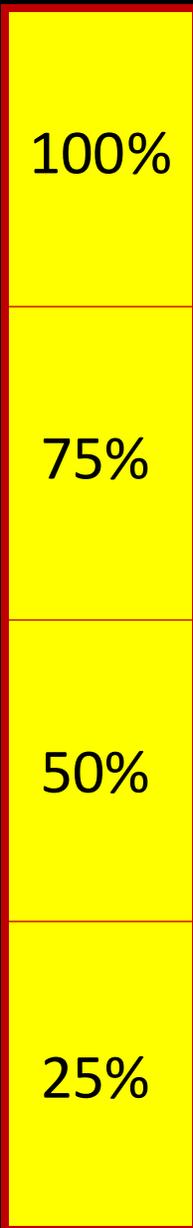


What does Jesus deserve?

- He died to save you from hell.
- He is King of kings forevermore.
- Paul warned about lack of love!
- Jesus judges losing first love.
- Jesus judges lukewarm worship.
- How many have you converted?

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be
Anathema Maranatha.

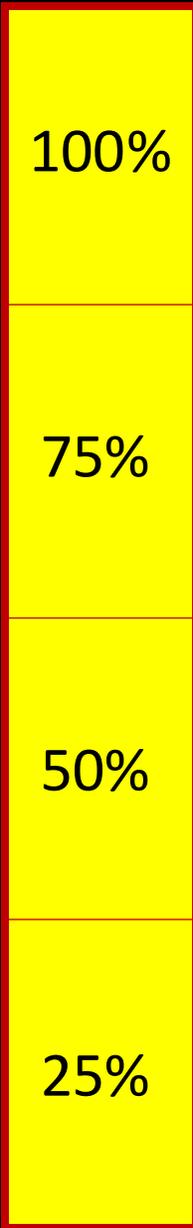
I Corinthians 16:22



Where do you rank?

- The top 25% in an organization usually does 80% of the work.
- If the bottom 25% left, it causes an instant, overall improvement.
- The middle 50% are average, but who wants to be average!
- This is for the Lord ... and your oath of allegiance at baptism.

Back when he ran GE, Jack Welch had a policy to fire the bottom 10% every year for an orderly process of improvement.

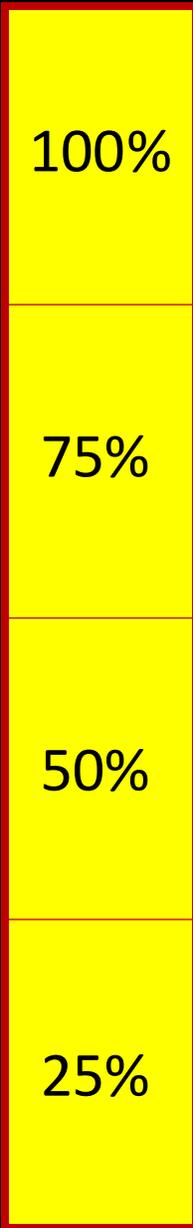


Where do you rank?

- I am alive to help you all rise.
- Jesus Christ deserves our best.
- Our church should be the best.
- Let us hate average anything.
- Where do you fall in the church?
- It is easy to rise to the next level.

Am I too vague?

Where do you fall in the church
based on these measures?



Where do you rank?

- Delight and devour word of God.
- LIFO or FILO zeal for assemblies.
- Participation in all public praise.
- Volunteer in roles to help others.
- Love and zeal for singing praise.
- Spiritual conversation of Christ.



Reprobate

Scorner

Fool

Mean Man

Good

Wise

Great

Son of Belial

Churl

Men of
Activity

Mighty Man

Industrious



Doeg	Nabal	Lot	Average	Bezaleel	Apostles	David
Judas	Saul	Solomon		Lazarus	Timothy	Paul
						Daniel
						Joseph



RCC

Corinth

Laodicea

Average

Rome

Thessalonica

Philippi

Thyatira

Galatia

Colossians

Hebrews

Ephesus