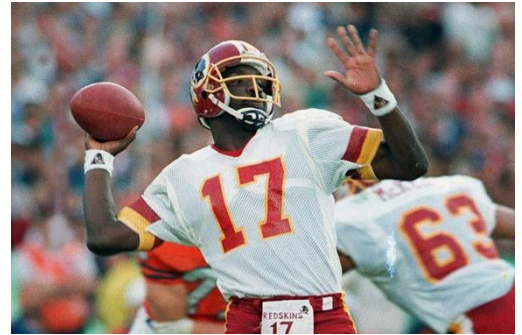


Unlikely Heroes

Although Super Bowl XXII was long ago it does present an interesting story. Washington head coach Joe Gibbs made some interesting selections for his starting lineup against the Denver Broncos. Coach Gibbs chose Doug Williams over Jay Schroeder at quarterback and speedy Timmy Smith at running back, the first professional game he ever started. Williams hadn't started for Washington until the playoffs began and endured a 6-hour dental procedure the day before the Super Bowl. This was the biggest football game of the year, and Gibbs made these unusual choices for his starting line-up. Denver jumped out to a 10-0 lead after one quarter, prompting the sports media to question his choices. The game turned in Washington's favor as they scored five straight second-quarter touchdowns, leading to a 42-10 Washington victory. Doug Williams threw four touchdown passes and a total of 340 passing yards in the big game. Timmy Smith rushed for a Super Bowl record of 204 yards, a record that still stands today. These two unlikely starters were the key players in the game. Williams was the first African-American quarterback to win a Super Bowl and was named MVP of the game.



God doesn't choose biblical scholars or people of prominence for His important work. Instead, He chooses people with a heart. Here are a few of God's surprising choices:

- Moses was a murderer (Exodus 2:11-14) and yet God selected him to lead the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. He parted the Red Sea and received the 10 Commandments directly from God.
- Saul persecuted and martyred followers of Jesus before his conversion on the Road to Damascus when Jesus spoke to him directly. He would become Paul, the inspired author of 13 of the 27 New Testament books of the Bible. Paul's life mission was to spread the gospel to the Gentiles. (Read Ephesians 3:8)
- In fear for his own life, Peter denied Jesus three times at the time of the crucifixion. Yet Jesus named him to be the "rock" on which he would build His church. (read Luke 22:56-62).
- David had a history tainted by pain, disobedience, and violence, yet the Bible also describes David multiple times as a faithful and forgiven man after God's own heart. (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22).
- Jesus selected His 12 disciples from lowly trades such as fishermen (Simon Peter, James, John, and Andrew). Matthew was a tax collector, a corrupt, hated profession. Simon was a zealot wanting to overthrow the Roman government but changed his allegiance to Jesus rather than political revolution.
- Jesus saw the potential in all of these men and God used them to further His kingdom. Even a disciple was known as "doubting" Thomas proved valuable to the ministry. Thomas was a pessimist who would only believe after seeing something with his own eyes. After the resurrection, Thomas' confession is considered to be one of the greatest when he said, "My Lord and my God," transforming his doubt into faith.

God knows the potential in you, even if you don't. He knows your heart and He has gifted you for tasks that will further His kingdom. Joe Gibbs saw the potential in Doug Williams and Timmy Smith, which led to a Super Bowl victory. God knows your potential as well. He has big plans for you as part of His victory over sin and the expansion of the Kingdom of God. God has chosen you. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9)*

Question: How can God use you to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and build a bigger Kingdom?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We don't need a resume to play a role in sharing the Gospel. Use us in the way you have prepared for us to serve you. Amen.