

## **Introduction: Saved through the Message of the Cross, Which Seems Foolish**

- The gospel of the cross appears “foolish” to the people of this world.
- Yet God used what seems “foolish” to bring salvation.
- Then who are we who have received such salvation?

### **1. Defining the Issue of Calling (v.26)**

- “Calling” means being purposefully called by the Lord — not by chance.
- Those who are not considered successful by worldly standards are the ones called.
- Example from the Corinthian church: many were uneducated, of low status, and poor.
- Still, the Lord intentionally called such people.
- In truth, not only the socially weak but all people are like dust before the Lord.
  - Supporting verse: Psalm 103:14 — “He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust.”

### **2. Why Were the Weak Chosen? (vv.27–29)**

- God chose the foolish, the weak, and the lowly.
- Purpose: so that no one may boast before the Lord.
- Worldly pride (success, ability, status) is not a condition for salvation.
- This does not deny achieving success or using one’s ability (cf. Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25).
- The essence of salvation lies in God’s election.

### 3. Our Boast Is in Christ (vv.30–31)

- As those who are in Christ Jesus, we are made into new beings.
- The Lord gives us righteousness, holiness, and redemption.
- This is God's plan and wisdom:
  - **Righteousness:** Being accepted by God through Christ, though sinful.
  - **Holiness:** Though imperfect, we are set apart and grow as God's own.
  - **Redemption:** Through the cross and ultimately full salvation.
- Therefore, let our boast be in the Lord (v.31).

### Conclusion: The Glory of the Lord Revealed in Weakness

- Testimony of Tomihiro Hoshino: Touched by the verse about "rejoicing even in suffering" and was baptized.
- His mouth-held brush paintings encouraged many.
- He is a witness of "God's power at work in weakness."
- Let us also become those who boast in the Lord in our work and family life.
- May we boast not in our own success or failure, but in the grace the Lord has given us.

### Time of Response: Meditation and Concrete Application

#### Questions:

- Why do you think you were called by the Lord?
- What did God see in you when He called you?
- What have you boasted in so far in your life?
- What do you want to boast in from now on?

Take a moment of silence and respond to the Lord in your heart.