

WEBVTT

NOTE recognizability 0.877

af954409-0020-4cf4-bef0-c73606ec290e

00:00:12.500 --> 00:00:14.030

Hey, I'm Dave Wilson and I'm the

994f6039-7a3d-4fb7-b778-e05d7312e4d4

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Director of Church Relations for Avant Ministries in Kansas City. I'd like to talk

1e1d1ac8-794a-4596-b198-c5b27a0f81e9

00:00:18.300 --> 00:00:22.830

to you a little bit about Candidate Assessment Process for Missionary Candidates that

2f738bcb-00c3-4b41-9169-b8d962af33f4

00:00:22.830 --> 00:00:27.610

come through your Churches and your Missionary Agencies. Sometimes we need

7a40dfb0-e17f-4e45-8df2-2d90645c4322

00:00:27.610 --> 00:00:32.330

to look at those that we may determine to be the least likely to

1e8aca00-2999-4d80-920a-f475633edac3

00:00:32.330 --> 00:00:38.520

succeed. You know, in a High School yearbook like this, there's a section in here that's called

287b1ca0-16f1-4cb2-8262-9c3002b571d8

00:00:38.520 --> 00:00:43.430

Seniors Superlatives and basically it's predictions that people made on the future

ecab5a0c-8b8a-4623-943c-f5aa15eab675

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of students based on their past performance at school. Some of the

33e78bfd-26f1-480f-a867-36e41fd72fa9

00:00:47.650 --> 00:00:52.580

serious students may be celebrated as most likely to succeed and become a doctor,

0f259af3-c006-4ee6-a055-aa94c452b480

00:00:52.580 --> 00:00:57.520

a lawyer, or an engineer. Others may be recognized for their kindness and

279e8262-e676-4755-b26e-a102295e4b0a

00:00:57.520 --> 00:01:02.180

for their nurturing spirit, they may be voted most likely to get married and start a

ae71aeb9-ac70-4cde-aadb-9f93fcd9cd17

00:01:02.180 --> 00:01:06.970

family or even, most likely to join the Peace Corps and save Ethiopia, heck

724b4421-807c-4f87-8ed7-3b1c87a6e8d2

00:01:06.970 --> 00:01:11.130

in my day, from their famine. Still others were more comical, like,

0bda6c6a-ce49-4885-a96a-c767b772d5a6

00:01:11.130 --> 00:01:14.210

most likely to get lost in his own house.

e31e3f36-720e-4791-aaf6-7bb30e2d931b

00:01:14.210 --> 00:01:17.180

Or most likely fall up a flight the stairs. You know,

761b048f-f33c-4f7d-8f3e-46be1290a8ae

00:01:17.180 --> 00:01:22.580

we often judge people, put them in their categories. For our benefit,

f3ecaa33-1912-4f13-b617-9e23e9d1a500

00:01:22.580 --> 00:01:26.560

we assess candidates sometimes for Mission Service in the same way.

c4c78ba0-23f5-41f7-a14a-dca87107137e

00:01:26.560 --> 00:01:30.930

We apply reason, we apply Science to justify and analyze people.

2a5d401c-e4d5-402a-b146-58cac9da5e54

00:01:30.930 --> 00:01:35.190

And, even some of the tools that we use like Myers-Briggs, Spiritual Gifts inventories,

3d71584d-b0a3-4277-9cce-6f257f80af65

00:01:35.190 --> 00:01:39.200

Strengths finder, those are all great things. We rely heavily

f3133368-b36f-47eb-8bec-7f771bad9d7d

00:01:39.200 --> 00:01:43.910

on these Personality tests and Psychological evaluations and even Leadership

ce9b6e66-cb59-4764-bd4b-46ed7ff74273

00:01:43.910 --> 00:01:49.640
profiles looking for the ideal candidate. These are merely helpful
tools. I just want to

d38be53e-8d54-4f1b-afb7-a6ad02c5e755
00:01:49.640 --> 00:01:54.640
remind you that, the err of measuring human ideals but not necessarily

e9d8157a-9fbf-43c0-b898-3c1ff9f02850
00:01:54.640 --> 00:01:58.930
God's ideals and being taken into consideration. This is not

66258923-9c76-4682-aa44-0e46490cf45e
00:01:58.930 --> 00:02:02.090
to discount at all these Evaluation

1f798cc3-01fc-472f-9224-774ea9f94fd1
00:02:02.090 --> 00:02:05.840
methods and tools, but to merely open the possibility

eaafe8a2-1e81-4c6e-98d3-56ff2f6ff98c
00:02:06.860 --> 00:02:11.610
to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit when you're looking at people who
are judged

c538bfff-9c85-4be1-8c37-26ced3196654
00:02:11.610 --> 00:02:17.020
unlikely to succeed. Perhaps God's candidate selection process

fea1074a-a7f5-4aa2-8739-5e6433a45d3e
00:02:17.020 --> 00:02:21.940
is quite a bit different than ours. A High School yearbook, it has
many things in common

f44170de-b68c-410e-8b17-4d8967dfb01b
00:02:21.940 --> 00:02:25.400
with our Scriptures. It's a reference book of actual historical
events,

89641a74-09a3-4611-8d02-91ce0fcb5377
00:02:25.400 --> 00:02:29.690
it's looking at people who are learners and disciples, if you will.
And it re-

7f1f032a-bcdd-4b4d-991c-bd69cde8984e
00:02:29.690 --> 00:02:33.900
counts their jewels of wisdom. And there are teachers that gave it to

a8ee77f4-99ce-486c-9118-f7da29a02b93
00:02:33.900 --> 00:02:38.900

them. Let me just read to you from Paul in First Corinthians

1ad29dcf-2bb1-48de-a9cf-3610e706afd9

00:02:38.900 --> 00:02:43.800

chapter One: He says, "For consider your calling Brothers, not many of you

10f3ca07-64fa-4345-8f92-f75600a781f0

00:02:43.800 --> 00:02:48.510

were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were

490cb44e-3c10-493b-a977-485a9db7c900

00:02:48.510 --> 00:02:54.310

of noble birth, but you know God shows what is foolish in this world to shame the wise.

d1b3f378-b58d-4682-8a3e-15c06480ef7d

00:02:54.310 --> 00:02:59.130

God chose the weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and what is despised

13135fc6-c161-4df5-b68f-d8442e56ca96

00:02:59.130 --> 00:03:02.560

of the world so that no human being may be able to

a7284997-48f8-4a43-97e8-2ec722462d98

00:03:02.560 --> 00:03:05.800

boast in the presence of God.

4281b076-a501-4228-b200-e15226d4c2ba

00:03:05.800 --> 00:03:10.270

Take a closer look at God's people in His yearbook. Here's

6e4724d9-5e57-4684-82aa-a224110c2bf1

00:03:10.270 --> 00:03:15.240

just three: Paul, David and Gideon. These men may have been judged by

b86476d3-4ca2-436b-82f1-e7c60baac1a2

00:03:15.240 --> 00:03:18.210

their peers with least likely to succeed.

dbc3e265-ce4d-429f-a874-aeaa9c1be39b

00:03:18.210 --> 00:03:23.100

But God uses the foolish, the weak, the loathed, the despised of the world so that He may

7bcbbf73-332d-4eed-b507-f6327590d8a8

00:03:23.100 --> 00:03:28.820

be exalted. So, Paul - I would imagine that he would be voted most

likely to

02954868-383c-446a-bc92-e2dc44b9eae9

00:03:28.820 --> 00:03:34.740

reach out to Gentiles, not. He was least likely to be reaching out

7db27df5-3fe8-4ae7-8365-ef5d3bbbae5a

00:03:34.740 --> 00:03:39.390

to those Gentile. He was a Persecutor for the church first of all.

They saw him

54becaaa-bab5-4cf1-97e4-63273effc0ae

00:03:39.390 --> 00:03:43.080

approving of the martyrdom of Stephen. They also

9eaa654e-2573-4861-a282-4a5c7fbd8efd

00:03:43.080 --> 00:03:46.610

have three different times in the book of Acts listing his brutality.

62aa21d9-4f5d-4d49-8866-6f3fbff7c72f

00:03:47.670 --> 00:03:52.710

He was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews. He was a zealot for the sake of the Law. And he went

0102722f-e500-4aeb-b2e4-41abcb85eb04

00:03:52.710 --> 00:03:56.590

to great precautions to avoid interactions with people who

61e055b6-ebba-41e0-a68e-3648947c86da

00:03:56.590 --> 00:03:59.730

were unclean, hence the Gentiles.

64fdc050-fcb1-46e9-b3d0-b040567273df

00:03:59.730 --> 00:04:00.930

Even with Second Corinthians,

fad0a571-6250-4939-aa06-90ee319dd79a

00:04:00.930 --> 00:04:04.290

and First Corinthians also talk about

0a2d2270-1097-4a17-ae03-bf4f3b1ed76b

00:04:05.350 --> 00:04:07.440

Paul's bodily, his earthly

584140de-e993-486f-8018-b60eec3367ff

00:04:07.440 --> 00:04:12.120

presence, (his letters talk about) his letters are readily strong but his bodily presence is weak.

320db9bd-b0ce-4dd5-9e25-24004327d5f2

00:04:12.120 --> 00:04:16.850

And his speeches had no account. He was single, he was...

9451c266-fd40-4f6e-87a9-875b44f751bc

00:04:16.850 --> 00:04:19.940

had some kind of physical deformity -we don't know what that thorn in the

a395cfe2-5864-47ab-b8cf-cdf84dcca76

00:04:19.940 --> 00:04:24.370

flesh was- but we also know that he had poor eyesight, poor vision.

95ae5b67-a046-40eb-ab92-8095c9ba2611

00:04:24.370 --> 00:04:27.880

Paul doesn't necessarily represent what we would consider the idea of

b8038e04-b87f-4cfa-9704-1328659d4bd4

00:04:27.880 --> 00:04:31.650

candidate for most mission agencies looking for people today.

6197ee68-3724-4cc4-a91d-f38440af0baa

00:04:31.650 --> 00:04:35.610

But, God has not limited His call to earthly standards

15b91a33-3442-4c66-9d42-76c514c3d091

00:04:35.610 --> 00:04:40.220

of behavior, or even belief systems, or bodily appearance. One of my favorite

66b46153-5be0-4b50-a808-3afe61ae2800

00:04:40.220 --> 00:04:45.340

cliches is that God does not call the equipped but He equips those whom

4c16fae2-a8f3-42ce-8546-df252e0daf35

00:04:45.340 --> 00:04:50.700

He calls. After seventeen years of training from the time

4d3c0db4-5ddc-4755-a1c3-0a51c0f3c69d

00:04:50.700 --> 00:04:55.410

that Paul was converted on that road to Damascus to the time that he was actually preaching to

1acf7a3d-a955-4de2-88df-fe88f8da66a0

00:04:55.410 --> 00:04:58.220

the Gentiles in Galatia.

72f2c537-5a0b-4827-998c-1fb621124d7e

00:04:58.220 --> 00:04:59.890

He went through seventeen years of candidate

0e7bdff5-fa65-4d4b-8866-153fdc25100f

00:04:59.890 --> 00:05:04.480

prep, cultural adaptation, even missionary method training.

4a811088-a00e-492d-bfcf-fa1cd1b28e77

00:05:04.480 --> 00:05:09.600

And, Paul became the Missionary of Missionaries. Let's look at David.
The life

389ee389-74d4-4a19-b2f8-17dde2ee99fb

00:05:09.600 --> 00:05:14.590

of David doesn't show to be one who is most likely to succeed as

236a6e34-31ef-42fe-8d96-df72e191f69c

00:05:14.590 --> 00:05:19.110

a king but I would imagine he was least likely to succeed as a king in

01587cb4-826c-4d5f-89b6-c376a493683c

00:05:19.110 --> 00:05:24.440

earthly standards. First Samuel- when Samuel goes to Jesse,

9371368f-f37b-4b4f-af10-002a136a274b

00:05:24.440 --> 00:05:29.860

God says I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem. For I have provided
for Myself a

367859cf-54b7-4834-ac6f-674150912a2f

00:05:29.860 --> 00:05:33.730

king among his sons. You shall anoint for me him whom I

fc3a21d8-d269-4535-b3a9-efda3a86ad08

00:05:33.730 --> 00:05:36.620

declare to you. So God is saying, I

b35f5299-e9a0-4738-bf3b-0c9fe0aa5a6a

00:05:36.620 --> 00:05:41.560

have already provided Israel with a king and Samuel was on the role of

aec94676-7e78-481d-bd12-da4fb9323488

00:05:41.560 --> 00:05:44.770

an investigator as a seeker

97be060e-43c7-400f-a856-3cb27f382521

00:05:44.770 --> 00:05:49.580

and discoverer of God's will, not necessarily anointing David himself

7792685a-ad18-485e-a81c-0b53c7624b1b

00:05:49.580 --> 00:05:54.800

but seeking who God has already anointed. But, you know, there's this

parade of

11ee7366-4d6a-4d1b-8464-9d1e1d794f12

00:05:54.800 --> 00:05:58.350

sons. Jesse brought together all of his sons before

f445b042-71bd-44e9-b067-d4f9af3a3bde

00:05:58.350 --> 00:06:03.050

Samuel to see which one was called by God.

210d12d8-f987-4b98-bb6a-0f400806f06f

00:06:03.050 --> 00:06:08.370

David wasn't a part of that parade. Actually, later on, the Lord says to

c196db52-ec90-4dad-8e34-9bbefeb590a9

00:06:08.370 --> 00:06:13.120

Samuel, when he looks at all those sons, they were good-looking, they were strong,

d2d2efe2-4cf5-486c-a5cf-2d03daeb0090

00:06:13.120 --> 00:06:18.540

they were rugged. The Lord says, "Don't look at their appearance, or the higher their structure, but

73b311b6-45fd-45b9-826f-7d284b08408d

00:06:18.540 --> 00:06:23.190

I have rejected them for the Lord sees not as man sees. Man

f79af5e1-4a31-477c-bd49-ca8bf56f906b

00:06:23.190 --> 00:06:28.110

looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart."

94c9f58a-9abd-47ca-ac30-0806a62745ce

00:06:28.110 --> 00:06:30.760

So, Samuel says, "Hey is this all your sons?"

44cd51ce-7837-4c3e-9567-b58c302e79d2

00:06:30.760 --> 00:06:36.310

Jesse responds back, "Well, there remains yet the youngest.

578b730a-89b8-4f77-b3e2-aa29a3492ace

00:06:36.310 --> 00:06:41.960

But, behold he is keeping the sheep". So Jesse, the father, his bias

fe5b516c-2f17-4f84-8fa3-f1236c4fa644

00:06:41.960 --> 00:06:46.540

was revealed here, which was natural. It was human evaluation from an

2745273a-c8fd-444f-8ac8-3b58ab0a8a16

00:06:46.540 --> 00:06:51.430

early perspective but God's perspective is greater than even

1a9a93df-a6b7-4fab-a49c-abdd88238d61

00:06:51.430 --> 00:06:55.740

the most sophisticated human method of evaluation- the father.

534df66e-3049-47fb-ba6e-eff8065f3792

00:06:55.740 --> 00:07:00.620

When choosing missionary candidates, we need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and use

388bf4ae-b2d8-4da3-867f-2fc483fd906a

00:07:00.620 --> 00:07:06.570

spiritual discernment along with our minds. The third one, Gideon. He was

c1725d51-a2ea-41b9-b361-2b4035375812

00:07:06.570 --> 00:07:10.500

voted least likely to lead an army.

0694ddad-28d3-4857-8a13-c4680564c13f

00:07:10.500 --> 00:07:14.560

Hands down, you know, the Sunday School story goes, that the Lord

284c4ca5-dc06-4e7e-90a8-166c4d436b94

00:07:14.560 --> 00:07:18.140

used Gideon and his three hundred men to defeat the Mideonite army of

0d7539cc-218b-447e-91db-688211d1b0ed

00:07:18.140 --> 00:07:22.900

a 135,000. He was the ultimate underdog but the

0af78ab8-19d1-4cea-b018-d3f7b291002e

00:07:22.900 --> 00:07:27.770

real story is, he was a below-average man, from an insignificant

c43cbec4-bb18-4df4-badb-08a11032d641

00:07:27.770 --> 00:07:32.670

family, living among a disadvantaged nation, who were all in hiding.

4fe941b6-3b1d-4f5b-9132-e946c2b50977

00:07:32.670 --> 00:07:35.410

Judges 6:15 says,

2216d327-b739-41c5-bb43-4bb64e351dc8

00:07:35.410 --> 00:07:39.020

'Gideon replies to the Lord, "How can I

f8a6aa99-7934-4887-b1dd-bafd616bdbe6

00:07:39.020 --> 00:07:41.760
save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest of

7ee72f18-6544-4fc3-af0f-dd4995589135
00:07:41.760 --> 00:07:47.120
Manasseh, and I'm the least in my father's house. So this first
encounter of

85cd192b-da3b-4d4f-ac71-9fbbed8803db
00:07:47.120 --> 00:07:52.100
Gideon, he was threshing wheat in a winepress. He was in hiding.
Usually

942266e2-0d5b-417c-a827-6f491020cf9b
00:07:52.100 --> 00:07:56.770
they thresh wheat on the mountain top so the wind would carry away the
chaff but he was in

76e741cf-49f8-4fa6-8815-2d949f4866ab
00:07:56.770 --> 00:08:01.090
hiding to keep from being harassed by the Mideonites.

5f960351-dbc0-4e1d-ad70-69aa187856cd
00:08:02.190 --> 00:08:06.680
The angel greeted Gideon with a very strange and amusing greeting- he

4148127e-09da-40fe-bbd3-7f885ddaa936
00:08:06.680 --> 00:08:11.170
said, "The Lord is with you, mighty man of valor." It was amusing
because he was

e2584ede-af83-4868-84ed-647df74c3b56
00:08:11.170 --> 00:08:17.070
in hiding not such a mighty man of valor at that time. But then the
Lord says

be7b9341-6d9a-40b8-91e8-f8185b7de634
00:08:17.070 --> 00:08:21.530
to Gideon, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the

c0f6f128-ff16-414b-ae9-aa264c037eeb
00:08:21.530 --> 00:08:26.700
hand of Mideon. Do I not send you?" What might is this that the

d0ed86c3-8ca8-4b93-80df-722d6c5b1519
00:08:26.700 --> 00:08:32.660
Lord is talking about, about Gideon? First of all, he was a hard-
worker. He was there in

f7c5098b-afff-41e6-a293-2d15bffba6ff

00:08:32.660 --> 00:08:37.950

that winepress working on the wheat. He was knowledgeable about the deeds of

9102f5af-3a8c-4331-85cf-04004faae665

00:08:37.950 --> 00:08:41.160

the Lord among his fathers, he was spiritually

5d712928-6f63-4433-a12f-624e2d139e18

00:08:41.160 --> 00:08:45.660

hungry and was seeking works of God to be performed in his time, not just

a7f32b09-dd82-4407-9aad-3ca3566ca918

00:08:45.660 --> 00:08:50.630

in the memory of his father's time. And he was also humble, very aware of his own

d1864f70-ed02-43c4-ad46-a14f4cea4be1

00:08:50.630 --> 00:08:54.170

weaknesses. You know, that's one of the greatest strengths that any man of

475e6b29-00a5-4c33-8f43-e071deee050f

00:08:54.170 --> 00:08:58.570

God can have, that humility. Gideon though,

a55111c2-4354-463a-a075-e9079ddf23fb

00:08:58.570 --> 00:09:01.630

throughout his life, he exhibits a weak and very

5a3d61db-42c4-4c99-9f08-23d194dd5ebf

00:09:01.630 --> 00:09:06.490

imperfect faith. He is constantly seeking signs. Remember the angel consuming the meat and unleavened

683b21a9-e9c0-4fbc-9703-665191c6301a

00:09:06.490 --> 00:09:11.390

cakes, on the fire, on the rock? Remember the

b793616d-c17f-4e1f-8d67-e3cc717310ff

00:09:11.390 --> 00:09:15.900

two times not just once, but two times, he put the fleece out and he also

1621519b-e88e-41ea-b88c-920fd861eefc

00:09:15.900 --> 00:09:19.880

went down to Mideon camp to spy out

e45aab38-4271-4b09-b788-7c5ff191a79c

00:09:19.880 --> 00:09:25.810

what the soldiers were saying about the impending battle. The human propensity is

4493f3ec-ab51-4657-91f1-2983f3be4662

00:09:25.810 --> 00:09:29.770

to doubt God's calling and Gideon was a representative of that.

1cd23241-00ee-40c0-943e-d050ef8816c1

00:09:29.770 --> 00:09:33.910

You know Scriptures are filled with people who are voted to lose or unlikely to succeed.

d162b0fd-b308-4f99-80a6-8bc2f374dca3

00:09:33.910 --> 00:09:38.600

Jacob was a deceiver. Peter was a hot-tempered fisherman. Moses was a stuttering spokesman.

2cac3f14-f381-4cb0-b260-b33706f0c873

00:09:38.600 --> 00:09:43.460

Abraham and Sarah were elderly parents. Rahab the harlot. Even Jesus the son of a

7221b5d8-746d-491c-ad1d-257f24c82694

00:09:43.460 --> 00:09:48.600

carpenter born in the obscure part of the world. So in conclusion, we should

1e260ad7-e597-4a27-ac8c-0b04267d6c0b

00:09:48.600 --> 00:09:52.760

never totally rely on those academic methods exclusively.

9a4b32c4-162b-4183-825d-3322c53f9059

00:09:52.760 --> 00:09:55.570

God is still moving in the hearts and minds of

d6875cf5-d2ef-49ae-a6a2-20ff1a56bb3d

00:09:55.570 --> 00:09:59.680

the least likely characters. The best predictor of a missionary success

2856153e-b3d8-4240-99a6-df9afe5e627a

00:09:59.680 --> 00:10:00.710

should be previous

f42bba3a-26c8-4688-9d2c-532002c51f68

00:10:00.710 --> 00:10:05.560

fruit bearing. So ask these two questions of your missionary candidates: Describe

929fca28-25e8-4c73-a66d-81e57d88be6d

00:10:05.560 --> 00:10:10.660

for me how you sense the Lord calling you into this mission field?

7d1b99b7-409f-40c2-8519-666c32d24bf9

00:10:10.660 --> 00:10:14.370

And, what have you done in the past that has prepared you for your future?

98afa6cc-a8e3-457e-9b2e-6d23522dc7da

00:10:15.450 --> 00:10:18.560

Moses probably would say, "You know, I spent forty years on the back side of

014a7b10-7fe8-449e-80f8-04ed50ea5b19

00:10:18.560 --> 00:10:21.680

a desert." Paul would say, "It took me seventeen years to

34fbad96-1305-47fe-bc05-a92dc7047ca6

00:10:21.680 --> 00:10:26.390

understand God's heart for the Gentiles." and Gideon would say, "You know,

b7a3703c-4ccc-4d58-bd20-56fd9e34e8e7

00:10:26.390 --> 00:10:29.810

the Lord delivered my fathers out of Egypt. He has

af885bb5-cf0e-4c46-8edd-32ead21f3b16

00:10:29.810 --> 00:10:34.500

appeared to me and has shown me the way even though I'm afraid, I will step out

7a499c39-e400-48e5-87a5-d734eebc7315

00:10:34.500 --> 00:10:38.720

in faith because He is with me." It's good to know that there are many people

6759f1b6-ae94-4373-8cd9-0a394742221e

00:10:38.720 --> 00:10:41.660

whom God chose to write on Scriptures. They

c84b58d6-a753-410f-a7c0-899535a7a9a6

00:10:41.660 --> 00:10:45.760

weren't beacons of perfection. They were real people with real struggles, and real

9bfb89a5-2964-414b-afd2-b54307dec524

00:10:45.760 --> 00:10:49.540

failures. I think God likes to take people who are least likely to

ad0b94e0-3647-4e1f-9f41-82df683cd72d
00:10:49.540 --> 00:10:51.920
succeed in human terms,

b8e3ee6b-867a-427a-a985-e052428e6279
00:10:51.920 --> 00:10:57.330
fill them with His Spirit so that He could demonstrate His glory and
greatness in the world, desperately

e5a38f13-2aef-4873-a838-48b1fe2463fd
00:10:57.330 --> 00:11:00.870
in need of a Savior. My final encouragement here, don't ever

8e5d2356-b2ed-433a-9635-e7e1b6ddbdc
00:11:00.870 --> 00:11:04.140
over look people just because they don't fit the mold.