

Sermon Notes: January 15th, 2012

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

1. CALLED
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THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

1. CALLED

Isaiah 43:1, But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

I Thessalonians 5:24, The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Our journey of faith begins when we answer, or respond to the call of God. It is an awesome privilege to receive a call from God. All mankind receives a call of salvation from God. All believers are called to serve Him in some way.

Have you ever received an important call?

- I can think of 2 calls that changed my life
 - The call from Independence
 - The call from Manchester
- Have you ever gotten the call that didn't go the way you wanted it to go? How did that feel, God's call is always a life changing event...

2. CHOSEN

I Peter 2:9, 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.

Matthew 20:16, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Although many are called, some fail to respond and hence they are not chosen. They lose the privilege because of their disobedience. However those who respond to the call of God are chosen by Him. The choice of God is the final authority. Once a person has been chosen by God himself no one can overrule His choice. This gives us a glorious confidence. We can rest in the security of having been chosen by God. No other force either human or satanic can prevail over God's choice.

3. COMMISSIONED

John 15:16, You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Matthew 28:19, Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Everyone chosen by God is also given a commission. They are given a specific task to fulfill in the Kingdom of God. No one called and chosen by God is left without a ministry. Although the general task of evangelizing the world is given to the whole church, each member is assigned a particular part in the fulfillment of the great commission. The secret of victorious service to God is to discover our specific ministry and fulfill it. A tree is successful when it bears fruit. However success for an apple tree is bearing apples. The apple tree does not have to bear oranges or any other fruit to be considered successful. Success in fruit bearing is bearing fruits according to its seed. In the same way success in the ministry is fulfilling the specific task assigned to us. We are called to bear fruit according to the seed God has planted in us. We do not have to achieve what someone else has

done to be successful. We do not have to imitate or compete with any other ministry. Success is fulfilling God's plan for our life and ministry.

4. CLOTHED

Luke 24:49, I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Joshua 1:5, No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

A person commissioned by God will also be clothed by God with all that is necessary to fulfill that commission. God will give the necessary anointing and power as well as all the gifts and talents needed to fulfill the commission. A person commissioned to sing for God will surely be clothed with the necessary voice to sing. Everything that is needed will be given along with the task. No army will send its soldiers to war without equipping them with the necessary training and weapons. In the same way everyone commissioned by God will receive the necessary training and tools that they need for their particular task.

5. CONTROLLED

John 15:14, You are my friends if you do what I command.

II Timothy 2:4, No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

Every person commissioned and clothed by God will still be required to be under his control. Any one deliberately going out of God's control will ultimately head towards destruction. Pilots of airplanes, in spite of their skills and experience and the sophistication of their aircrafts, still need the control tower for their safety. In the same way every person needs to be under God's control all through his or her lives. We never outgrow the need to be in God's control.

6. COVERING

Psalms 91:1-4, 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Isaiah 54:17, no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. □ This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.

A person under God’s control will enjoy God’s covering of protection. Even under the desperate attacks of the enemy the covering of God will repulse and defeat every destructive attack on his life and ministry. The covering of God is the greatest and safest shield in our lives and ministry. No other human and earthly protection whether the help of people or influence or material wealth can substitute the covering that God provides in our life.

7. CROWNING

II Timothy 4:7-8, 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Matthew 25:21, “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Revelation 3:11, I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

At the end of the journey of faith there is a glorious crowning. Worldly people may boast of the honors bestowed on them by great men of

this world. But God's people have the greatest privilege because at the end of their walk with God there is a coronation where they would receive a crown not from any earthly king or president but from the Almighty God himself. What a privilege this is. Therefore the bible warns us to be careful lest any one takes away our crown. Let us not miss this glorious finale by our disobedience or carelessness. May God help us to be faithful till the end.