



## THE SUNDAY MESSAGE

### OUR CALLING

sunday 18 july

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These notes provide some ideas to reflect upon about what we are to achieve in this life.

*Are you growing towards a destiny (your calling) or just going through life?*

#### 2 Timothy 1:3-7

This is a tough question for many people. The sort of thing many Christians ask is 'what is God's purpose for my life.' There are so many testimonies of other believers who have had a call from God to serve somewhere and then they have gone out and done it. Usually it had tough parts but ends up successful. The problem for many people is that they do not know what that call is and so they are stuck going through life wondering if they have missed their opportunity or if they have a problem hearing from God.

*How do I know God has called me to achieve something in life?*

#### Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 139:17-18

These two well known pieces of scripture tell us that God has a plan for us and that His thoughts about us outnumber sand! God is good and all He does is good so I don't think these thoughts are about what we are doing wrong and how He is going to get even with us or sort us out. No, He is busy thinking about all the wonderful possibilities for us. God of course has no problem with faith whilst for us we have to grow faith in ourselves to believe in the same potential he sees in us.

*When God believes in me, am I prepared to believe in myself?*

#### Look at Judges 6:11-16, Joel 3:10 and Philippians 4:13.

God believes in us. He believes that we can achieve all He has dreamt about for our life. He doesn't just believe in us doing this He knows we can do it. Look at what happens to a child when a parent or teacher believes in them. Or look what happens to an artist or sports person with great potential who at the moment sees more defeat than success and then along comes a coach or tutor who sees the potential and believes in them. Life is full of people who have become more than they dreamt of and far more than they believed in themselves at the time. If we are going to grow into our calling we have to begin to believe in ourselves. *What would happen if I literally believed Philippians 4:13?*

*I've tried to do what I thought I was called to do and it didn't work out.*

This happened to God as well. He tried to guide Adam and Eve to stay away from danger and choose love but it didn't work out. He chose a nation to be an example to the world and reflect His nature but it didn't work out. So He came Himself and showed the way to rescue all of us. And that worked out. The story of the father in the story of the prodigal son is a picture of God the Father. He is ready to pick us up, dust us down, cloth us again in hope and help us succeed next time because we are wiser and failure didn't kill us. Peter discovered this but take a look at the beauty of his letters 1 & 2 Peter at the end of his life.

#### Matthew 16:13-20 vs. 16:21-23 and Matthew 26:33 vs. 26:74-75 and John 21:15-19

## NEXT STEPS

Believe and declare that God has a plan for you fulfil.  
Believe and declare that you matter and you have potential.  
Believe and declare that He can make it happen.

Reflect about times where you have been fulfilled giving something of your life (time – energy – emotions) to something else or someone else.

Reflect about things which grieve you and stir you to compassion (not judgement and condemnation). Things which you don't say 'they should do something about that' but things to which you say 'I wish I could do something about that.'

Read these notes the next two Sundays to see how to take the next step after this time of reflection.

### What is a calling?

When used in terms of our relationship with God it means His will for us to achieve the purpose in our life. He's figured out what we are perfectly suited to achieve through the way He created us, through our life experiences, our resources, our abilities and our spiritual gifts. He is like the perfect coach or conductor or manager who knows the strengths of each person and the needs of the team or the business. He puts us where we are best suited to succeed and help others.

God calls us to come and join with Him advance His Kingdom on Earth. That's what Paul is saying to Timothy in the first scripture in these notes. We only know perfect contentment when we are working and serving in our area of calling.

By the way, most people's calling will not be in fulltime church employment (paid or voluntary). More next week.

*Take time to read Purpose Driven Life again by Rick Warren.*