

CALLING

Matthew 4:18-22 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “*follow* me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he *called* them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

- What kinds of things are we called to? What are the recurring themes? What kinds of jobs are people called to? What surprises you or troubles you? General principles? re: work, jobs?
- To be following Jesus, saints, apostleship, called in one body, to take risks to suffer for doing what is right, out of darkness into light.
- Tend to think of calling as a one time thing- but it seems to be a lifelong pursuit of understanding our calling- to be a saint is a lifelong pursuit.

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have *called* them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Romans 1:1-7 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, *called* to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including yourselves who are *called* to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are *called* to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Paul *called* to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, *called* to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 7:17-18, 24 However that may be, let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God *called* you. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his *call* already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek

circumcision...²⁴ In whatever condition you were *called*, brothers and sister, there remain with God.

- FREEDOM-preaching against legalistic understandings re: what is allowed, forbidden
- Historical tension:
 - only people who are “religious” have callings.
 - Biblical picture- we are all called.
 - Reformation answer- any job is a calling.
 - Biblical picture- every Xn is called to be a Saint, called to the body- job doesn't matter.
- V.24: If this includes jobs, it means jobs are no big deal.

Colossians 3:12-15 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were *called* in the one body. And be thankful.

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was *called* to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

- Called not to a place but to a direction- to move.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who *called* you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:18-21 Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh.¹⁹ For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.²¹ For to this you have been *called*, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.