

The Calling of a Lifetime

Matt 4:18-22 The “Calling” of Peter, Andrew, James and John

- ¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹ **Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me,** and I will show you how to fish for people!” ²⁰ And they left their nets at once and followed him. ²¹ A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And **he called them to come,** too. ²² They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. (Matt. 4:18–22 NLT-SE)

The problem I see with that overused, overemphasized, overpreached word “calling” is that many of us have limited the definition of “calling” to a profession, a career or a role.

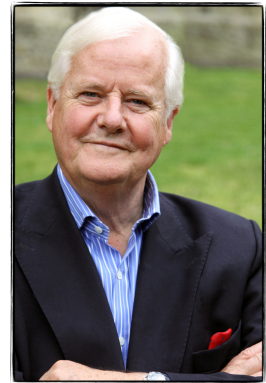
In this view, calling is about what we do, not about who we are.

Karen Yates ~ *Your Calling Is Closer Than You Think*

- **God has a wonderful plan for your life and you’re probably walking it out right now!...** God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Eph. 2:8–10 NLT-SE)
- **Your individual calling will make the most sense when you see its connection to a higher corporate dynamic...** Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. (Eph. 4:1–4 NLT-SE)

The church is the assembly of God's people, called out by him and belonging to him. Each of us is summoned individually and therefore uniquely and personally. But we are not summoned to be a bunch of individual believers, rather to be a community of faith... However strong our individual callings are, our sense of corporate calling is often very faint. The call of Jesus runs counter to all these modern trends because it is inescapably a corporate calling.

Oz Guinness ~ *The Call*



- **The Lord’s Prayer...**⁹ Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today the food we need, ¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³ And don’t let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. (Matt. 6:9–13 NLT-SE)
- **Staying connected with Jesus is THE KEY to walking in our calling...** I’ve written these things about those who are attempting to lead you astray. But the wonderful anointing you have received from God is so much greater than their deception and now lives in you. There’s no need for anyone to keep teaching you. His anointing (chrisma: sacred appointment, spiritual privilege) teaches you all that you need to know, for it will lead you into truth, not a counterfeit. So just as the anointing has taught you, remain in him. (1 John 2:26–27 TPT)