

## The Call

Isa 6:8

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

KJV

As I reflect on my life, and I ask the question, "What work have I performed has caused the most people to turn to God?"

If I could measure my works by the answer to this question, I would have to conclude that the answer is preaching.

God has chosen to use the preacher and preaching to be the greatest work men can perform to turn people to God.

1 Cor 1:21

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

KJV

Preaching is a calling.

1 Tim 2:7

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

KJV

Those who are called to preach must preach.

1 Cor 9:16

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

KJV

Men who are called to preach who cannot find a pulpit will make one. They will find a place to preach whether it is a Sunday school class, a prison, a mission, or a nursing home.

There are many men who have the ability to preach who are not called to preach. Charles Spurgeon had many men seek his counsel about become a preacher. Spurgeon warned them not to preach if they could help it. But Spurgeon continued...

"If you cannot help it, and you must preach or die, then you are the man!"

This compulsion will cause a man to always be preparing to preach. Being a preacher is hard work. You must be compelled to spend so many hours each week alone with God preparing to bring the message. Most men who are called to the ministry would rather be doing something else to serve others.

A church should avoid appointing a man to preach who is not called to preach. He will not have the passion to prepare Sunday after Sunday. He will not have the vision to prepare a series of messages that build truth upon truth and precept upon precept. He will not be able to do the work.

Many men will be called to be Pastors in the body of Christ that do not have the calling to preach.

Eph 4:11

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

KJV

1 Cor 12:28-29

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

KJV

Many men are called and compelled to Shepherd people but they are not compelled to preach. If they did have the calling to preach, they would have the compulsion to do the work!

There is a shortage of preachers in our land. There is such a shortage that churches are now starting satellite churches that use the same preacher rather than mission churches that have their own preacher.

The shortage is created by men who will not answer the call to preach. God keeps calling but they will not say yes to the call.

These men are afraid of failure. They are afraid of being penniless. They are afraid of public opinion. They are afraid of these and other giants in the land.

Many of these men become insecure frustrated leaders in local churches. They feel like a fish out of water but they will not wade into the water because of their fears.

If I am speaking to you then shame on you for not trusting God to meet your needs. You will never be settled and at peace until you surrender to the call to preach. Instead of being like Isaiah and saying here am I send me you are like Jonah and you are avoiding your mission.

The same could be said for any believer who is not answering God's call to disciple others.

Although all believers are not called to preach, all believers are called to personally lead others to Christ and disciple them.

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

KJV

Every believer is called to show others truth and how to apply those truths to their life.

This call certainly begins in the home but let me ask you a question.

If we are not going to use our worship services on Sunday morning to win the lost, how is the church going to reach them?

There is not one adult or teenager in this building who could not lead a bible study once a week with a person who is not a believer or with a believer who needs to be disciplined.

A few years ago a man in our church reached out to a confused teen ager named Spencer. Spencer had run away from home on multiple occasions and had various confrontations with the law. He had experimented with sin in various ways and many people thought there is no way he would amount to anything. This week I received this letter from Spencer.

Then there was a young man named Freddie that another man reached out to. Freddie was confused about his sexual identity and had acquired the aids virus. He was emotionally unstable and many people thought there is no way he would amount to anything. At Christmas I received a Christmas card from Freddie which had a picture of him on a mission trip.

Then there was a young lady named Laura. She was also confused about her sexual identity and was emotionally unstable. A lady in our church reached out to Laura and over time, I am sure that there were several ladies that took time to spend time with her. Laura is now married and has served on the staff of First Stone ministries for many years helping others come to freedom from various addictions.

There is not one saved teen ager or adult in this building who could not lead a bible study once a week with a person who is not a believer or with a new believer who needs to be disciplined!

Which call is more important-The call to preach or the call to every believer to make disciples one by one?

A local church can survive and thrive without a preacher. A local church will die if the members do not reach out to others.

You have made an error in judgment if you have limited the scope of your outreach to your own children.

Besides your children, who have you led to Christ in this building this morning? Who have you led to Christ that attends our church? Who have you led to Christ in the last year? Who have you led to Christ in the last ten years? What is keeping you from answering your call?

You cannot blame the condition of our society.

What do you need to do?

- **Wake up!**
- **Pray!**
- **Look around you.** What is God doing? Who do you already know who would agree to meet with you once a week to learn God's truth and how to apply it to their lives? Who does God want you to spend time with. Don't just look at the most committed and the best looking. None of the people I mentioned above would qualify. Learn to see what people could become and not just what they are. Learn to see who they are in Christ and not just who they are in the flesh. Look at the poor!  
**Ps 41:1-3**  
**Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.**
- **Make the call.** Risk rejection! What have you got to lose? What have you got to gain? Make the call.
- **Find a plan.** There are so many of them now days. What do they need? Where are they at in their journey? Find out their needs.
- **Invest what you can.** Or if you have time, lead more than one. Jesus did 12 at once but he was very available.

Some saints can give more time than others. Some can only meet once a week. Don't be ashamed if you can only invest a little. A little investment with God's Word to lead others can pay huge dividends in a person's life. One meeting can change their lives forever.

- **Challenge those you reach to do with others what you have done with them.** We are created to multiply. We are not created to be a sponge. We are created to be a fountain.

When you are done, do it again.

It is the churches failure to answer God's call that has caused the current moral conditions in our nation. Some are called to preach. All are called to disciple others. We have no one to blame but our own passivity, apathy, fear, and lack of passion- A lack of passion that is caused by deception, pride, and a misplaced dependence on preachers and the programs of the church to get the job done.

As God said to Isaiah....

Isa 6:8

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Then said I, Here am I; send me.

KJV

**Isaiah answered, "Here am I; send me!"**

What is your answer?