

**"PREPARATION FOR CALLING"**

*Captain Chesley Sullenberger/Miracle on the Hudson. For 42 years, I've been making small, regular deposits in the bank of experience in education and training. And on January 15 the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal. Our script: Moses calling. Going to look at the issue of preparation for calling.*

**I. CALLING INVOLVES HUMBLING**

A. The story of Moses shows us the things that God has to overcome in us in order for us to be used

1. A greatest problem/obstacle to calling is self-sufficiency/pride
  - a. **Pride in what done already – or can do now:** *Talent/\$/achievements*
  - b. **It produces self-sufficiency for the future:** *I can do it!*
2. This produces destructive things in us that prevent the call of God from working out through us
  - a. **We view God incorrectly:** God is great... but He can just get on board with my great plans
    1. *No sense of seeking or surrender*
  - b. **We view people incorrectly:** In pride/self-sufficiency he thought he was God's gift to the Hebrews
    1. *You people are so lucky to have someone like me be willing to mess with people like you!*
  - c. **We view timing incorrectly:** Pride makes us think we're better than we really are *I'm ready right now!*
    1. **Either move ahead of what God is doing:** *Exodus 2:11-12 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.* <sup>12</sup> So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
    2. **Or we resent having to wait:** *How can he not see... become embittered*
3. This no doubt is part of the reason why the Bible says *Not many mighty/wise are chosen...*
  - a. *We get in the way and ruin God's plan – hurt people!*

B. So an important part of preparation for calling is humbling: Lowering our pride

1. Moses had to run and hide! *Ex 2:15 Pharaoh sought to kill. Moses fled and dwelt in the land of Midian*
  - a. *40 years he takes care of sheep (humiliating in Egypt!)*
  1. This was an important part of his ministry preparation: Humbling/a 40 year reassessment of value
2. This is common for disciples/young Pastors: A humbling/Process of preparation
  - a. **Frustration/setbacks/struggles/failure:** *Fished all night, caught nothing... Why couldn't cast it out?*
    1. The question we need to ask: *Do I need to reassess myself?*

**II. CALLING INVOLVES DISTURBANCE**

A. The greatest threat to the will of God is not sin

1. Sin is often so obvious: Dealing drugs/robbing banks – it's obvious you need to change
2. The greatest threat is complacency: People who are satisfied with business as usual – or even stuck
  - a. *Moses: 40 years at his job/home/business? The routines of life*
  1. **We become averse to risk:** Peter wanting to walk on water – the other 11 stayed in the boat
  2. **We can become settled/hardened to the will of God:** *Hosea 10:12 ... break up the fallow ground*

B. Calling often involves disturbance

1. Often in the form of interruptions
  - a. **Crisis:** that make us reassess life
  - b. **Dissatisfaction/unhappiness:** Getting ready for a change
  - c. **A supernatural stirring:** God calls from the bush!
    1. *Ex 3:2 The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in the midst of the bush...*
    - a. Many of those called were interrupted: Disciples/fish/tax/Elisha plowing...
2. Our world as it has been is rocked: And we begin to face new possibilities

**III. CALLING INVOLVES ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD**

A. Moses calling involved a supernatural encounter with God: A burning bush that didn't burn up!

1. Reference points are formed: God shows Moses Himself before He shows His purpose
  - a. *Exodus 3:6 I am the God of your father...*
  - b. *Exodus 3:14 I Am/Jehovah...*
2. The main focus in the calling – is supposed to be **God!**
  - a. If it's you - excited/stirred by possibilities: *But things might not go like you planned*
  - b. If it's others alone - filled with love/weeping tears: *Doesn't last – or comes and goes*

B. 2 forms of supernatural encounters:

1. **Regular relationship with God:** Ongoing *1 Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself, and to the doctrine...*
  - a. You need to learn who God is
  - b. You need to feed on God: *Jesus - My words are spirit/life!*
2. **Supernatural encounters with God:** Supernatural bush/snake/hand
  - a. At various points we need a fresh encounter with God *Scott Lamb: God met with me in prayer*
  3. God is saying to Moses – you can't work for me without an encounter with me
    - a. Disciples fade over time – waiting/desert becomes a test
    - b. But ministry is like this: Fade then – people are depending on you

C. If we set our hearts to respond we can trigger this: Not manipulating God - God wants to meet with us!

1. God showed up first! b. *Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek me, and find me, when you will search for me with all your heart.*