

Calling Today

IN: One/most frustrating things deal w/is people who don't respond to calls/messages on time. Call and they don't answer, then call back two days later. Send a message and they leave you on read for hours, days, a week... **then** try to pick up like nothing happened. I don't need you anymore! I found someone else to solve my problem! → A truth abt calling, it has a timeframe – here at conf need/think abt your calling in a serious way: What does your calling ask of you *today*?

1 Ki 19:19–21 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

1) Calling Timeframes

a) Calling always has a time element

- i) Context of our SCR: Elijah is on a mission, and that mission is time sensitive
 - (a) **1 Ki 19:15–16** Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.
- ii) Elijah's mission had a timeframe (God didn't tell him 'when you get around to it')
 - (a) SO that means Elisha's calling had a timeframe – b/c it was connected to what Elijah was trying/accomplish
 - (1) Your calling is always connected to a need or an opportunity – that means it is connected to a timeframe
 - iii) Ps Rubi preached disc in Prescott recently 'What a diff a year can make' – need pursue now, NOT when get around to it!
- b) This means that calling must have urgency
 - i) **1 Ki 19:20** And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"
 - (a) Think abt what act/saying: If you want to do this, then do it – if not, don't waste my time!
 - (b) Once told a man on staff w/me: If you want this, tell me now, b/c I can't afford to play games with you
 - ii) Is your calling urgent to you? Is it something you are aggressively pursuing? OR is it just an idea you're toying with?
 - (a) Over years had so many guys that really *like* the idea of calling, but it's never *urgent* to them!
 - (b) They're distracted by a million things, never serious about the things of God
 - (c) I watch men w/incredible potential – but they just never get serious about it, and the kingdom suffers!
 - iii) All those years ago, there was a reason we called this 'Serious Men' – b/c we recognized a need to be serious about our discipleship!

2) Calling Decisions

a) Your future requires you to make decisions *today*

- i) TX he had to decide *today* if he was going to follow Elijah – but that would determine his entire future
- ii) You see this in the practical dimension: Your money decisions today will determine financial situation later
 - (a) You make decisions that affect your health, your relationships – but these are dec you make *today* about your *future*
- iii) But also true in the spiritual realm: You are crafting your future – your destiny! – by the decisions you make today

b) There are decisions that close doors

- i) **1 Ki 19:21** So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.
 - (a) This was a statement that this part of my life is over – not going back there ever again – closing the door!
- ii) Too often men try to keep all these doors open, keep a foot in, just in case!
 - (a) What if I need a backup career? What if I decide I don't want to preach? What if I fail?
 - iii) Many men are very afraid to make dec that close doors: You like having your options!
 - (a) As disc, pastor asked me to cut off rel – didn't understand, but did it – that saved my ministry, marriage, poss even my salvation
 - (b) 21yo began flying lessons, but then realized at that time incompatible w/my discipleship – simply didn't have the time

c) There are decisions that open doors

- i) **v21** then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant
 - (a) IOW he made up his mind where he was going and joined himself to that life
- ii) As a disciple, you can make decisions that will open doors for you – even if you don't realize it at the time!
 - (a) I stayed out of debt – helped tremendously! Rachel/I made decision to say yes no matter what God asked of us
- iii) ULT this is what PG drilled into me: 'Every decision is a discipleship decision'
 - (a) From the car you drive to the way you approach your ministry – they all have an effect
 - (b) You make decisions in advance: LIT pre-decide certain things about your life

3) Calling Surrender

a) If you don't surrender to your calling today, you will never achieve your calling

- i) TX Elisha just follows him – after burning down the family business!
- ii) THIS is what surrender looks like: It doesn't have an 'if' or an 'until' attached to it – it is unconditional
 - (a) IOW you surrender to what your calling is or might be right now
 - (1) Serving in your local church, being a blessing in ministry, ministering to people, caring for converts

b) But surrender opens the door to what your calling *might* be in the future

- i) Ps L asked me to be outreach director, time frightened, made/mind & told God 'I will always say yes!' told Rachel and she agreed
 - (a) That has profoundly changed my life: All the way to SA – the answer is very simply yes, no discussion needed – we are surrendered!
- ii) Your surrender to your calling will be the key to everything God wants to do in your life – for the *rest of your life!*

c) What are you going to do with your calling?

- i) TX the mantle was just an invitation to follow – Elisha had to surrender the rest to the unknown
- ii) YOU have been invited – what now? What will you do this week in conference? What decisions do you need/settle in your heart? In your home? Are there financial decisions you need to make? Relationships you need to adjust?
 - (a) Do it! Destiny is waiting for you!