

What's It All About? Following Him!

I. The Callings of God

- A. "Many are called but few are chosen"

- B. "Make your calling and election [choosing] sure [stable, secure]" - 2 Pet 1:10

- C. Handout – 37 references to the callings of God

II. The Call to Discipleship

"The only man who has the right to say that he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ. Such a man knows that the call to discipleship is a gift of grace, and that the call is inseparable from the grace. But those who try to use this grace as a dispensation from following Christ are simply deceiving themselves." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer in The Cost of Discipleship p. 55

A. OPENING REMARKS:

- 1. The main focus during Jesus' 3 years of ministry on the earth was _____.

- 2. There is a big difference in _____ and _____.

- 3. In the Greek, the word disciple means _____.

- 4. The NT presents the picture of a disciple of Christ as one who is _____

- 5. Matt 11:28-30 -

- 6. How we become disciples:

B. THE CALLING – to _____!!!!

1.

2.

3.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

Note: History records that it was the apostle John who actually confronted the demon spirit behind Diana in the temple at Ephesus, causing the altar to split in pieces and half the temple to come tumbling down. (see Ramsay McMullen in the Christianization of the Roman Empire 100- 400 (Yale University Press p. 26)

4. Reproduction – called to _____

5.

a) Matthew 28:19

b) “Shepherds do not bear sheep. _____ bear sheep!”

C. THE COST – something to be counted or considered

1. Luke 14:25-28 –

2. The cost:

D. THE PROCESS –

Some Steps in Discipleship:

1. A hunger for God's Word
 - a) John 8:31-32 –

2. A willingness to put Him first; to “love less” other things/people
 - a) Luke 14:33 –

3. A denial of self
 - a) Luke 9:23 –

4. A willingness to embrace the cross
 - a) Luke 9:23 –

5. A commitment to follow Him – walk in His footsteps, do what He does, say what He says, etc
 - a) Matt 4:19; 8:22; 9:9; 10:38; 16:24; 19:21 –

 - b) 1 Peter 2:21 –

6. A love for one another
 - a) John 13:35 –

7. Fruit-bearing
 - a) John 15:8 –

8. A servant heart
 - a) Phil 2:5-8 –

 - b) 1 Cor 9:19 –

THE CALLINGS OF GOD

Romans 11:29 - "For the gifts and callings of God are without repentance."

1. Called to fellowship with His son [companionship, participation with] (I Corinthians 1:9). Walking in the light (I John 1:6,7.).
2. Called us to peace (I Corinthians 7:15).
3. Called you into the grace of Christ (Galatians 1:6)
4. Calleth His own sheep by name (John 10:3).
5. Called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28-30).
6. Called to lead the life He has imparted to us (I Corinthians 7:17-20).
7. Called unto liberty. (Galatians 5:13).
8. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called (Ephesians 4:1).
9. Called unto holiness (I Thessalonians 4:7).
10. Called unto complete sanctification of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23,24).
11. Called with an holy calling according to His purpose which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began [sonship]. (II Timothy 1:9).
12. Chosen [called] you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth whereunto He called you by our gospel (II Thessalonians 2:13,14);
13. Called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9).
14. Called to inherit a blessing (I Peter 3:8,9}.
15. Called us to glory and virtue (II Peter 1:3).
16. Called us to be His wife who hath made herself ready (Revelation 19:7).
17. Called to apostleship (Romans 1:5,6)
18. Called to be saints (Romans 1:7).
19. Called the foolish, weak and base things of the world (I Corinthians 1:26-29).
20. That ye may know what is the hope of His calling (Ephesians 1:17-23).
21. Called of God [when you are a son] to minister unto Him as priest (Hebrews 5:4,5)
22. "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure" that "ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:10).

23. Ye are called in one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).
24. Called you unto His kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
25. Called in one Body (Colossians 3:15).
26. Called to receive the promise of eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15).
27. Called to suffer (I Peter 2:20,21; Romans 8:17; II Timothy 2:12).
28. The high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).
29. Called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).
30. Many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 20:16, 22:14). [Few choose to respond to His call; therefore, they are not called "the chosen." They did not choose to be the called.]
31. Called to eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12).
32. Called to be justified and glorified (Romans 8:30).
33. Called to be vessels of mercy (Romans 9:23,24).
34. Called [as] sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17).
35. Called out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15).
36. Called to be disciples (Mark 1:20).
37. Called to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:28,29).

These calls come with an R.S.V.P. Hearing and answering the callings are two different things. You have free volition in the matter. Remember, however -you either answer the callings, or answer for them.