

Sermon Outline - Sun, September 25, 2022 – Calling – To Whom Are You Called?
Ecclesiastes 4:1-12; Isaiah 58:6-12;

Keyword Summary –

Overview – This is the last Sunday in our exploration of Calling – where we have been reflecting on the question – To Whom Are You Called? Working from the equation - CALLING = God's Plan + Your Gifts & Experiences + Community/ies of Engagement we have been looking deeply at how we understand the role that Communities of Engagement play in our personal and communal calling.

Recap

- First Sun – (1) We Are Relational Beings; (2) Anything Really Worth Doing, Requires More Than You; (3) Knowing the Who, May Answer the Question of What
- Week 2 – We talked through things that can stand in the way of calling – (Unhealthy focus on money, comparing yourself to others, trying to do it all on your own)
- And things that lead you towards calling – (1) Generous Giving; (2) Seeing the Beauty in Everyone (incl. yourself); (3) Embracing Vulnerability/Interdependence
- Last Week – We often find ourselves in communities that we do not choose – and we looked at how to practice generosity, seeing the beauty and vulnerability in hostile places.
- This week we talk about how we practice these in communities that we do choose to be in.
- **Reminder – God's promises straddle between the individual and communal. You cannot fully unlock them by only embracing one or the other!!!!!!!**
- The scriptures show God's promises fulfilled in relationship with others
- Your participation in New Roots can be a conscious commitment to fulfill that AND New Roots needs to commit to being in concrete relationship with other communities.

Key Points -

1. **Generosity** - Where are you investing your time, talent and treasure? Do you engage with a community for what it can give to you or what you can give to it. How can it be BOTH!
2. **Seeing the Beauty in Each Person** - It may not be apparent at first. You have to be willing to really know people AND to let them know you.
3. **Embracing Vulnerability/ Interdependence** - The previous step is part of it, but it is also committing to walking in the unknown to moving together to waiting on God.

All of these things take time and commitment. They will not happen simply because we hope for them – we will have to work for them. As we go into a celebration of our 4th year. As we emerge from this pandemic into a new reality – to whom are we called?

Questions –

1. What community(ies) are you going deep and giving generously of your time, talent and treasure? Does your distribution of time and energy feel right? How might you be called to activate or redistribute your generosity?
2. Where do you feel called to really see people more people more deeply? What relationships are you supposed to cultivate so that you can see beauty of others?
3. What community are you called to move with interdependently? How are making that choice and waiting to hear God's voice and/or helping the community to move to action?