

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

Keyword Summary –

Overview – Every year we return to this theme of calling. It is the beginning of a new school year; the summer is over, and the work world is picking back up and we are often trying to set some new goals or course correct on some things we might have committed to at the beginning of the year.

Exegesis

- Ecclesiastes = book of wisdom. Gets practical on many things around how you live for God. This passage makes it clear that you can't do it on your own; doesn't lead to good outcomes
- Isaiah 58 – one of the most know scriptures in Jesus' time. Reminds us that for God – true holiness has to show up in the way your relationships unfold – otherwise it is empty
- Far too often our sense of calling is connected to the “hero's quest” and other myths that have one person doing it on their own but these say doing it alone doesn't work
- Reminder of the Calling equation
 - CALLING = God's Plan + Your Gifts & Experiences + Community/ies of Engagement
- This month we will really focus on how key Community/ies of Engagement are to calling

Key Points -

1. **We Are Relational Beings!!!!** From the very beginning God called us to be in relationship. Connecting with each other, offering wisdom and support is a healthy human need (though we have to be careful about letting that need drive us into unhealthy relationships.) The idea that we can make it on our own is wrong and harmful!
2. **Anything Really Worth Doing, Requires More Than You!!!** At minimum you need the radical intervention of the Holy Spirit, but you also likely need other humans both to add other pieces and to support you in your piece of the work.
3. **Knowing the Who, May Answer the Question of What!!!** - Sometimes our calling flows from the needs of the communities that we are called to.

As we seek to discern what our community is called to, we must be driven by who we are called to be with, that may be one of the keys to the clarity

Questions –

1. If relationship and connection are central to humanity and part of our spiritual practice, where do you stand in cultivating that practice? Do you make enough time, not enough time – what do you need to do to deepen your commitment to relationship building?
2. When you think about the things that inspire you or that you feel called to, are they big enough that they require the support of others? Where have you had visions of collective work that get you motivated to fulfill God's work?
3. Is there a community of folks that you are called to that have. A very clear need that you see your skills aligning with? How can you go deeper with that community
4. Maybe you feel like these other questions are too specific and not where you are right now. If so, just spend some time reflecting on places where you clearly feel like you belong OR what are you searching for in a place where you would feel certain you belong?