

“Love’s Call”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, June 14, 2020

Ephesians 4:1-4 NKJV: I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling...*

1. Who does the calling, what are we called out of, and what are we called into?

1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV: ⁹But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him “WHO” called you “OUT” of darkness “INTO” His marvelous light; ¹⁰who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

2. Who does He call and what does He call us to do when He calls every person?

Acts 17:30-31 NKJV: ³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

John 3:16-17 NKJV: ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 Timothy 2:1-5 NKJV: Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus...

a. Wait a minute. I thought God calls those that are just good people.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (MSG): ²⁶Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. ²⁷Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, ²⁸chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? ²⁹That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. ³⁰Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. ³¹That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

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3. How does He go about calling us?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 NKJV: ¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **(1 Peter 1:20 NKJV)**

a. ‘Gospel’ is the “Good News from our Heavenly Father to everyone about what He has done through Jesus Christ.”

Romans 1:16 NKJV: ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

b. How do people hear about the gospel?

Romans 10:14 NLT: ¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

c. Who is the “Someone” that tells them?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV: ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

d. Do we only tell people about Jesus, or are we also to demonstrate the power of God?

1 Thessalonians 1:5 NKJV: ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5 NKJV: ³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Mark 16:15-20 NKJV: ¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.