

Matthew 4 – 25 August 2019

Called To Serve

Introduction –

If you're a believer in Jesus, you have a specific calling on your life unique to you.

However, we all have a universal calling as believers.

1. To have fellowship with God (I Cor 1:9)
2. To produce good works (Eph 2:10)
3. To praise God before men (I Pet 2:9)

All of these can be summed by saying: **WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE!**

Matt 4 gives us the beginning of Jesus public ministry & gives us a template for our call to service.

We're going to talk about the 3 phases in your call to serve.

Read Vs 1-2

1st phase of our call is a call to serve the Master

1. In Matt 3 Jesus proclaims His service to God, the Master and now as Satan tempts Him He'll prove His service to God, the Master.
 - a. Read Rom 6:16-17
 - b. Make no mistake you are serving someone.
 - c. Your decision on a master determines the fruit that will come of your life.
 - i. Read Rom 6:21-23
 - ii. That why choosing a Master is phase one in your call to serve.
2. Notice again vs 1 – Satan tempts us to serve him as master.
 - a. Temptation isn't sin, temptation is passive, it's happening to you, you haven't done anything in thought, word or deed.
 - i. Satan tempts to sin- Matt 4:1
 - ii. Jesus tempts to have faith– Read John 6:5-6

- iii. We're told to provoke one another to love and good works – Heb 10:24
- iv. Don't give in to the temptation just b/c you feel dirty. Flee to freedom!

Read Vs 3-11

1. Jesus' 3 temptations
 - a. Vs 3-4 – Is a physical temptation
 - b. Vs 5-7 – Is a mental temptation
 - c. Vs 8-10 – Is a spiritual temptation
 - d. How does He gain the victory? By relying on the precision of God's eternal Word!
2. Satan uses all the same methods
 - a. Eph 6:11 – “withstand against the wiles...”
 - b. Our enemies are World, Flesh, Devil, but our temptations are summed up in I John 2:16
 - c. It's been the same since the beginning –
Read Gen 3:6
3. Satan opens his mouth just 3 times with criticism to tempt.

- a. Criticizes God to man – Garden of Eden
 - b. Criticizes man to God – Book of Job
 - c. Criticizes the perfect Godman – here
 - d. All in an attempt to get them to serve him as master!
4. Prove that God the Father is your master.
- a. Jesus was tested in all ways, yet w/o sin.
 - i. Heb 4:15
 - b. You'll be given the public chance to show that you serve the Lord.
 - i. Deut 8:2-3

Read Vs 12-17

2nd phase of our call is a call to serve a Mission

1. Jesus' mission was to fulfill the role of the Messiah to preach and heal.
 - a. Luke 4:14-44 has much more detail about Jesus going from town to town preaching.
 - b. All preaching begins with...repent

- c. The One who knows what temptation is, has called us to repent.
2. Once you have a master, ask Him what your mission is.
3. What are you gifted at?
 - a. Read Matt 20:27-28
 - b. Use your gifts as a servant, not as a lord.
4. What mission has God specifically called you to?
 - a. Paul was called
 - i. To preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph 3:7-12)
 - ii. Be a minister & witness to the things he had seen to the Gentiles (Act 26:16)
 - b. Jesus was called to serve a mission
 - i. “Save Me from this hour, but *for this cause* came I into world.” (Jhn 12:27)
 - ii. “*For this cause* came I into world, to bear witness of the truth.” (Jhn 18:37)
5. Are you living on purpose or just willy-nilly?

Read Vs 18-22

3rd phase of our call is a call to serve with Mates

1. #1 reason we need mates – We don't have all the tools ourselves.
 - a. We're a body that benefits from each other.
 - b. Turn to Rom 12:3-8
 - c. God's very specific gifts, given to you, can only accomplish your very specific mission, given to you, when you use them in, for and thru the church. (REPEAT)
 - d. As we serve each other, we experience all the skills and gifts needed to reach the lost world.
 - e. One person doesn't have all the giftings.
2. #2 reason we need mates – We get lazy without iron sharpening iron.
 - a. Christ has freed us
 - b. Free from sin and death, not free from needing each other.

- c. Now use our freedom to edify each other.
 - i. Gal 5:13
- 3. #3 reason we need mates – There’s a multiplication that occurs that we can’t achieve alone
 - a. Read II Tim 2:2 – Paul to Timothy
 - b. Read John 17:20 – Jesus’ prayer
 - c. Read John 21:15-17 – Feed my sheep
 - d. Vs 19 – Fishers of men – this is duplication

Read Vs 23-25

- 1. Jesus’ Master, Mission, Mates
 - a. Jesus knows who His Master is – so He preaches and teaches about God the Father.
 - b. Jesus knows His Mission is to fulfill the role of the Messiah – so He teaches and heals.
 - c. Jesus knows to include people, His Mates – so He didn’t shy away from the people in His path.

2. Interesting that there seems to always be a physical helps angle to the mission that gives.
 - a. Jesus here doesn't ignore the physical need of the people.
 - i. Nor does He mis-prioritize the physical need as more important than the eternal, spiritual need.
 - b. Read Act 20:32-35 – Paul labored to take away the distraction the physical needs can be.
 - i. Prov 30:8-9
 - c. Gal 6:10 – Do good to all, especially unto the church.

Conclusion –

1. You've been called to serve a Master
 - a. Have you declared who your master is by being baptized as Jesus was in Matt 3?
 - b. You will be constantly tempted now to prove it. Prove He's your Master.
2. You've been called to serve a Mission
 - a. What have you been gifted and called of God to do?
 - b. You can use Paul's calling in Gal 1 as an outline to understand how God calls someone to a mission.
3. You've also been called to serve with Mates
 - a. There are no Lone Ranger Christians
 - b. What pride to think we have what it takes in and of ourselves to reach to world.