

Call To Worship.

Psalm 34:6-10 (God's Provision and Care)

1. Doxology.
2. Ode to Joy. Joyful, Joyful.

Doctrinal Teaching.

Psalm 23:1-6 (God's Provision and Care through Jesus Christ)

3. Sing Hallelujah to the Lord.
4. Come Thou Fount.
5. Jesus Name Above All Names.
6. God is so Good.

Sermon Text.

John 21:1-14| God's Provision or Man's Skill? Pt. 2

After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana of Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught."

Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise.

This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

Intro.

Some feelings in life that seem impossible to deal with.

The feeling of homesickness, it seems like an unsolvable problem.

The feeling of loneliness, it seems like nothing will help you.

The feeling of poverty, It could be one of the most difficult feelings to resolve.

The limitations and restrictions that that puts on your life can seem stifling.

In the south they called that ‘dirt poor’. I had a friend he said, ‘David, we were so poor, we didn’t have a 1 bedroom home, we had a 1 room home, and that room had a dirt floor.’

It seems like everybody has a story about when times were tough. I remember hearing about coal miners getting stuck in the mines and having no food. Being without food for so long, they started to eat the leather belts.

I know a man, a friend of mine, who got both of his legs and one of his arms blown off. His wife was a manager of an Apple Bee’s when he left for Afghanistan. He left America 180lbs, he returned 120lbs because he had half the body.

The wife might have wondered, why do I have to manage these tables and wait on all these difficult people. God prepared her hands and her heart to wait on her husband who can’t walk, can’t feed himself.

There are a lot of difficult stories of tragedies.

There is the pain of shame that comes from regrets. The lump in the throat that accompanies fear.

There are places in life, caused by the pains of this life, that seem impossible to get through.

There is the feeling of needing forgiveness. The sheepish waltz of knowing you don’t measure up but still trying to figure out how you fit in.

Peter needed forgiveness here. He received it without debate.

All of those things and more are places that require resolution. And they are difficult feelings to process.

But there is a place that you can go in life that will overcome all of these things. It is one place, that if this is resolved in your mind, it will overcome all of these difficulties.

It is this; Knowing Why You Were Created.

If you know why you were created, you can now overcome homesickness, because you know where you are headed.

If you know why you were created, you can overcome loneliness, because there will be new people to meet along the way.

If you know why you were created, you can overcome the pains of poverty, because you now have a purpose.

In a sense, If you know why you were created, you have a charcoal fire inside.

You must know, that your purpose will NOT deliver perpetual pleasure, but it will serve to get you through regular pain.

Your purpose will get you off the hook from things that are not your responsibility, BUT, will keep reeling you into things that are.

The weary weeks between Peter's Denial and the Commissioning to his Duty, would not have been on the up-and-up.

Peter denied Christ, scattered abroad, and now he is back home, living among all the naysayers, the Christ-deniers, and worse of all, He can't even catch a fish.

In this moment, the Lord Jesus, takes a now bashful Peter, and builds him up at breakfast.

And I do want to make a direct application in this this setting, to you and to me.

Because...

There are times in our life, when we get it wrong.

Times when we deny, when we should have proclaimed.

Times we should have stayed quiet, when we retorted with cuss words.

Times we should have stayed when we ran off.

Times we should have sought forgiveness, when we hid instead.

All of these things are routine responses in our human life. But in the wake of our human failures, those failures do not get us out of our calling.

Why Were You Created?

You must come to realize that you were created by God.

That doesn't narrow it down. That's a good place to start.

If God created you, and He did, He has a purpose for having created you.

The Westminster Confession of Faith, states 'You were created to worship God and enjoy Him.'

That's a good general purpose statement of the Christian faith. But it doesn't exactly give me direction on how to take action.

Let me put it this way and then expand; If God created you, God had a purpose in creating you, and that purpose is your calling.

One of the worst places that you can be is to be in a place where you are evaluating other people's calling.

You watch and observe, you evaluate and nit-pick, and draw conclusions about their calling, when all the while God has not created you for that purpose.

Everything under the sun has a purpose.

The sun was created for a specific and unique purpose. However, the sun was not created by God to fulfill every purpose in the world.

Therefore, the sun is important, but it is not more important than any other created thing.

Could you imagine if the sun began to criticize the moon, and would identify all of its craters and deficiencies. And critique the lunar cycle.

I imagine the moon might respond and say, you are supposed to be on the other side of the world right now, time zones way, why are you focused on me?

The point is, that if God has created the sun and God has created the moon, and God has set the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night;

what a world of hurting we would be in, if those two created things, decided to mix the whole thing up and not just fulfill their need purpose.

Don't we take those things for granted?

Don't we fail to acknowledge that God has gone to extraordinary measures to attend to this world.

The sun, the moon, the stars. The birds, the bees, the buffaloes. Each created thing, in its place, doing what it is supposed to be doing.

Only man, in all of the created beings, has the purview of rebellion from his created purpose.

And there are a range of reasons for why a person rebels against his created purpose.

-a person might struggle with the sin of laziness, so they rebel against the work of their calling
-a person might say they were daydreaming, when in reality they just are rebelling against the discipline of focused dedication.

-a person might struggle with being a coward, so they evade the responsibilities of their calling

Proverbs says, 'the lazy man, the fool says, there is a lion in the streets I cannot go out to work' Prov. 22:13

For the purpose fulfilling their calling, they become the spiritual lion in the streets, and all the hyenas come out to laugh.

You'll deal with a range of challenges in your calling, none of them are justifications to avoid it.

-a person might find more satisfaction in a routine because of its predictability and the comfort that it is certain bring, and therein reject the growth mindset needed to fulfill their calling.

Funny story, I had a man tell me that he was concerned for me because I was so focused on fixing things in my character, and growing out of immaturities.

He knew that I was working in what God had called me to do, and affirmed that, but said, "I want you to watch out because you have become fixated on your own character"

I did not respond back with Christ' words to 'take heed to yourself, lest you stumble' 'watch your life and your doctrine'

OR Paul's writing that tells us that 'this is God's will for your life, your sanctification'

Instead, I listened patiently, and realized, that it was my devote focus to my calling, and changing things in my own character, that was actually convicting him of the fact that he was not doing the same.

Therefore, he wanted to warn me, that if I continued doing that, it would actually serve to show how he was not doing that.

Friends, that's another dangerous place to be. Complacency has retired more men than social security.

You can't retire from a job; You cannot retire from a calling. You can rebel against your calling, but you cannot retire from it.

The reason you cannot retire from your calling is because it is the reason that you were created and it is impossible to retire from being created.

Living your purpose, fulfilling your calling, this will require things of you, that develop agility in your thinking.

So many people get fixated on the question; What am I getting?
Friends that is the WRONG question!

You must reject that question and not ask, What am I getting?
You MUST ask, What am I becoming!!!

No matter the specific calling you have, it must develop in you becoming a person of Christian value.

You become something worth. There are people that will hate you for that.

People hate the idea that you might work hard and focus with intention to become something.

Who am I? Why am I here? What does God require of Me?

Denying the needed focus on fixing things in your own character is tantamount to avoiding the responsibilities that will change your life.

Your calling has to do with two aspects of who you are; 1. Is Your Technical Skills 2. Is Your Character of executing those Skills.

God works through Holy Pipes, don't let the corrosion of cussing come through the windpipes
God builds with Holy Hands, keep them filled with righteous work.

I have noticed this about Divine callings. It is only Sin affects a person's calling.

No opposition in the world, no world superpower, no balance sheet set against you, no public or private defamation can stop you. The only thing that inhibits the working out of God's calling in your life is sin.

Pharoah could not stop Moses, only Moses' relationship with God could stop Moses. Saul could not stop David, only David could stop David.

And if the sin problem is resolved, then you only must resolve that it is a matter of time.

Now, Why all this to-do about Calling?

Part of my responsibility as a pastor is to bring people into their calling. Eph. 4 'God has given the church, Pastor-Teachers to equip the saints for works of service'

It takes a spiritual eye to see a spiritual calling. Isaiah said that the Israelite people 'could not see or hear', but Isaiah both saw and heard the Lord, High and Lifted Up.

Here are a couple examples of practical struggles in calling...

A person gifted by God with administrative skills will often struggle with the sin of controlling others and circumstances. That is the flip-side of the gift. It is the dark side. You must come to the light.

A person gifted by God with the Truth. Which by the way, that spiritual apprehension of the Truth is a gift by God. But that person change struggle with despair, with depression, with anger, because that person that sees the Truth is also the person that sees the Truth not being lived out.

The gifted administrator must discipline themselves to become more keen on self-control and they will grow in a greater ability of their calling.

That person gifted with the Truth must exercise, deliberately, a great apprehension of love and hope, so as to overcome in blessed sense the very gift God has given them.

There is a wide range of sins that can affect the persons calling.

A person can, 'kick against the goads.' A person can become presumptuous and partial to people in power and change truths of the faith. Even Peter fell into that in Galatia.

There is even a person that will say they have sinned too much to fulfill God's calling. That is also a deception.

If you can see what I'm doing here, I am in essence, necking every person down to this single fact and not letting you get out of it.

You must fulfill your calling, because it is the reason you were created. One of the ways that you know it is your calling is that you cannot get out of it.

God will actually rearrange the created universe to work His created purposes through you. If God needs you to lead a revival in Nineveh, You can rebel, but he will cause a storm, and you're thrown overboard and swallowed by a while and re-directed.

It is no challenge to God to re-direct, everything and anything that He has created to accomplish His purposes.

The challenge for us is two-part; 1st is determining what that is and 2nd is integrating that in a God-honoring way.

The single fact is this; You were created by God for a specific purpose and religious rebellion is NOT so much identified by the obvious sins of our age but instead avoiding and rebelling against the single calling God has given you.

There are a couple of points here that should resound with you intuitively; those points are;

1. You are important.
2. You have lots to do.
3. This importance and lots to do, must fit into the greater whole of everything else that has importance as well.

That's what's called Peace. Harmony. Unity. And, that is what the church is called by God to become.

Your calling does NOT always cause peace with your environment, as a matter of fact, it might cause major distress. But, if discerned truly, it will cause peace with God despite your environment.

A place that demonstrates peace and harmony and unity, with each component, doing what God has created them to do this is an amazing place.

When you do not have this, you have dysfunction, no-function, or mal-function.

But, if a person is TRULY saved, that dysfunction, non-function and mal-function, will cause a HOLY Unction that will cry out and say, 'We gotta do something about this!'

You have in this story here the start of the church.

You see what it starts with, Men's Breakfast. They come and have breakfast with Jesus.

There at Men's Breakfast, Jesus gives them marching orders.

Q: What did Jesus teach them at this Men's Breakfast?

Well, specifically, Jesus commissions Peter into service. And Jesus makes a distinction between Peter's ministry and John's ministry.

v. 21 'Peter said to Jesus ' Lord, and what about this man/John?'

v. 22 Jesus said to him, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!'

Incredible.

What is really being said here?

Peter, if I want the moon to be at half-mast what does it matter to you. I've called you to heat the church with Gospel-preaching.

If I am going to set John aside for a different purpose, yet one that serves me, what does that matter to you?

Why are you focused on that? I've got something else for you to do.

Q: Why are you getting caught up on what another man is supposed to do for me, when I've got plenty for you do to for Me?

Therein, What are we each called to do for Christ?

Body. (Doctrine, Illustration).

In this chapter you have a number of themes outlined. I believe what we are seeing as a primary theme is The Calling and Commissioning of Peter by Christ.

Calling. (Theme)

Sub-themes. (Resurrection, Forgiveness, Action, Reliance on God)

Resurrection.

This is the 3rd time Jesus has manifested Himself to the Disciples.

Forgiveness.

Intuitively recognized in this passage.

Peter was a cussing Sailor in the past few passages. Instead of confirming his affiliation with Christ, he cussed about it. Then he went fishing.

Though Peter has shown his hand as a cussing Sailor, Christ has fulfilled His promise as a forgiving Savior.

Action.

Then you have the actions of fulfilling their calling. They could catch no fish on their own power, then Jesus gives His orders and they catch more fish than they can handle.

Reliance on God. Trust, dependance.

Exposition.

V. 1 'After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.'

After these things – it is a common phrase used in John's writing to show a transition of time. It refers to an unspecified period time after Jesus first and second appearance to the disciples after the resurrection.

Manifested Himself - Jesus has shown Himself plainly in a variety of ways to the disciples.

This is the 3rd time in the Gospel that we see that Jesus has shown Himself in plain sight to the disciples.

Sea of Tiberias - this is just another name for the Sea of Galilee. It has also known as the Sea of Chinnereth (Chin-er-eth) in Num. 34, Josh. 13, and it was known as the Sea of Tiberias because Herod Antipas named it in honor of Emperor Tiberius.

V. 2 'Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.'

7 of the disciples are listed as being present.

Two others - likely refers to Andrew and Philip.

V. 3 'Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.'

I am going fishing.

Peter determined that he was not going to wait around. Peter was going to return to his previous vocation.

This was not recreation. This was not sport. This was his previous profession.

Peter was not going fishing because he was bored on a Sunday. Peter was not going fishing because he was tired of this church thing and was more interested in fishing.

Peter was returning to fishing because it was all he knew. It was his way of life. It was the old wineskins. It was the same old, same old. It was his livelihood.

Peter was a fisherman. Peter caught fish, sold fish, and ate fish.

Fishing was the way he made money and had food to eat. It was what He did for a living.

We will come with you.

The other disciples did not have the natural leadership skills of Peter. Peter was a born-leader. He was quick to talk, quick to do, and quick to fail.

But the disciples still followed him.

On this night, they are falling short of the glory of a fisherman.

The boat.

Definite article 'the' denotes that it was probably one of the seven's personal fishing boat.

That night.

Fishing is often best down at night. A reverse cycle.

They caught nothing.

They were failing in their profession. It was not working out.

Peter knew the fishing spots. He knew the time to go. He knew the depth to drop the lure. He had the right bait.

But tonight it's just not working out.

Q: Have you ever been in a situation where it's just not working out?

The job is a dead end. The relationship just isn't going anywhere. The fish are not biting but the bugs are.

You haven't caught a fish, but you got a sunburn.

You've got nothing to show for it and no vision for where to go.

You're out fish, out snacks, and out of patience.

Has it ever crossed your mind at this junction in life that this is the time to trust in God?

I'm not talking about fishing. I'm talking about YOUR CALLING.

Your calling is NOT what you want to do, it's what you have to do. Your calling is an obligation, NOT an option.

I want to see a church of people who know and live their calling in their church, their community and their specific calling.

If you have a jigsaw puzzle the goal isn't to get more pieces. The goal is to make the pieces you have fit together to make the proper picture.

So if you have 50 pieces, fit them together. It does you no good to just go from 50 to 500 to 5000 pieces if you couldn't even fit together the first 50.

So many people in American culture chase the allure that bigger is better. Often bigger is the fast-track to bitterness. Worldly gains and spiritual emptiness.

Your fulfillment will come by knowing your calling and becoming your personal best at your calling.

Now with that you must wonder what is your calling? Because I will tell you if you are a Christian you have a calling.

You are first called to Salvation, then you are called to Service. Every Christian needs Salvation and they need service.

Salvation saves the soul, service feeds the soul.

Salvation rescues the life, Service rescues others.

To have Christian salvation without Christian service will result in maladies you would prefer I do not describe. So I will save you the agony.

Merely, see this example of 7 men, who knew what to do but got no results.

Know this, the reason wasn't because they had a bad boat or needed new nets.

It's a poor craftsman who blames his tools.

The point is not the boat, the net, the time of day or any other assessment that can be offered.

The point is not the means of doing the task.

The point is this; That when God calls a man to be His man, you will be allowed to do nothing else other than serve Him.

Your old way of life IS OVER.

I have seen a large group of people who are bitter, sarcastic, cynical, overly controlling and hopeless because they have failed to acknowledge Christ's command over their life.

They chose Mammon over the Messiah.

They chose pleasure over patience.

They chose fishing over finishing well.

They chose hunting over hoping.

They called dreaming big, sinful, when in reality, the bigness of the calling just tested their faith, and they declined.

And here they are, with one last ditch effort to say, in this new season of life, will I remain the same or will I die on the vine?

Will Christ cure my apathy through service OR will He curse the fig tree of my life?

Will I humble myself, acknowledge that I've come this far and caught nothing?

Then, you've got the other guy, that guy says, yeah well that's all well and good, but before we go fish we better check with the state. We better register our boat. We better tag and report all the fish.

Well, here's my advice 'let the dead bury the dead' - If bureaucracy commands more allegiance than Christian service you already know who your god is.

Taxation of the Christian life.

Governments are known for their taxes and the Kingdom of God is no different. God has a way of taxing our lives and if you think it's a scaled system, I'm here to tell you that's not how it works with God.

Tax season is finishing up and maybe you haven't gotten yours done yet. That's ok, you can file an extension.

But hear me know, there will be no extensions with God. The taxation system will be paid to the King. There will be no standard deductions. There will be no child tax credits. There will be no write offs.

Hear ye, Hear ye, the King has called a Decree. There is a new taxation system. You can talk about the price of tea in China, you can throw the Earl Gray over in Boston, BUT in the New Jerusalem, The Lord Jesus requires of you 100% taxation.

The taxation system of the King is called the IRS.

In Righteous Service.

And your taxes are not 10% to the poor, 20% to the middle class, and 30% to the wealthy.

In the King's kingdom there is no wealthy, no not one. There is no middle class. It is a serf system. It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Only the poor will enter. 'Blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of God' Matt. 5:3
Hear ye, Hear Ye, the King has established a new taxation system.

You will not evade His taxes; His eyes are everywhere. You will not be afforded a default on your student loans. As a matter of fact, the Lord Jesus is now enrolling everyone back in school.

Night classes begin tonight. Some of you will be taking a full load.

Peter is taking one of these classes right now, on the Sea of Tiberias.
He is learning that He doesn't have the answers.

V. 4-5 'But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.' So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you? They answered Him, "No."

That's just like a good friend to highlight where you are deficient.

'Faithful are the wounds of a friend' Prov. 27:6

Children - Jesus has called them slaves, he has called them friends, he has called them brothers, and here he calls them children.

Children are the part of the human population that are not capable of providing for themselves. That's a large part of the point!

'Bring the children unto me!' 'you must become as children'!

You know something I've never heard a child worry about? Taxes.

Children are free from the impediments of adult priorities.

You know what else; children are free from? They are free from the concern of providing for themselves.

Children do not think about mortgages. If you talked to a child about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, they would think you are talking about McDonald's.

Interest rates are not interesting to children.

You get to a certain age and things are still a big deal to you and then somebody says 'ah grow up!' - So you start to think, oh I shouldn't think those things are a big deal anymore.

Well, ironically enough, Jesus tells us to make a big deal about His things. To be like a little child about the things of Him.

Look, Jesus is going to give the bird his worm, and He's going to give you, your bread. But we cannot live by bread alone.

Jesus Christ wants you to be free from the concern of thinking that you need to provide for yourself.

Jesus DOES NOT want you to think you are free from serving Him, He wants to you realize you are free from the outcomes of that service.

You and I think that we have to provide, that we have to go back to the old ways, that we have to pick up the old profession.

Here's what I would say and have you understand; You don't have to provide, that's what Jesus is doing.

You don't have to provide, you have to serve.

And if you are faithful to serve, Jesus is always faithful to provide.

V. 6 'And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.'

Cast the net.

Deploy the agent that captures the goods! Don't expect the answer if the request has not been made!

The Right-hand side of the boat.

The Lord Jesus, right now, is sitting at the right hand of God. Cast your prayer to the right-hand side of His royalty. He hears you. He loves you. He wants you to walk up to the beaches of Heaven, and say, Lord, give me fish! And He says, 'A fish?'

Pray and do not doubt.

What is the Great Doctrine of the Christian faith? Is it Sovereignty? Is it Love?

If it's Sovereignty, fall under it.

If it's Love, fall in it.

But here, in this passage, it is FAITH.

God's Sovereignty is something to be believed. God's Love is something to be believed. And Faith is the matter of believing in God's Sovereign Love.

We see the Sovereign Love of Jesus Christ right here!

You will find a catch.

**Not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.
The provision was so great they couldn't handle it all.**

V. 7 'Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea.'

It is the Lord.

The Lord. The person with the power. The person with authority. The master over the events. The controller of Creation.

He put his outer garment.

Peter didn't have all of his clothes on because of the difficulty of the task, he was stripped down for the purpose of working as a fisherman.

V. 8 ' But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.'

v. 9-11 'So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.'

Q: Why does John highlight the exact amount of fish, 153? Do we count people because people count?

Does it matter how many fish come in? How did the Corinthians who were 'weak and sick and a number slept'? Because they kept track.

How did the Thessalonians know who was working and deserved of food? They knew details.

How did Paul know that things still hadn't been set in order at Ephesus? They had Elder meetings.

How did Paul know that there was relational strife between a couple women in Phillpi? They were involved in each other's lives.

The NT does not know a church life that is 1 foot in, 1 foot out. So how does John know, 60 years after the fact that it was 153 fish?

- 1. Because details matter but**
- 2. It shows a historical precedent that it was an actual event that actually occurred and there are 7 other men that can attest to the facts of that day.**

v. 12-14 'Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.'

Third time that Jesus manifested Himself.

This is a big deal. Like I had been saying, the Resurrection wasn't merely a singular day event. At this point, it has been described 3 specific times with concrete evidence of the event taking place. With over 15-20 people acknowledge the event.

Men's breakfast.

Here's the deal, Jesus calls for a men's breakfast and He only has 7 people show up.

Christians always walk in the minority. Christians don't receive the popular vote. The Electoral College doesn't go to the Elect.

But here it is, Jesus has a plan for them.

This is same general vicinity that Jesus and the disciples were 2 years prior in John 6.

Application. (What can I do with this?)

What do I do with all of this knowledge?

What do I do with the fact that the resurrection is a reality?

What do I do with the fact, that forgiveness is merely the foreword of my life's biography?

What do I do with the fact that I am called into serving Christ?

What do I do about the fact that my days are in the very hands of Jesus Christ?

What do I do with all of this?

I do not propose to know every detailed application of what God would call you to do with your individual life. That would be impossible.

But I do know this, God has created you for the purpose of salvation and for the purpose of sanctification.

He has created you to save you from sin and He has saved you to sanctify you from sin and in all of this turning away from sin, you can only turn to Christ.

And now, who you were is not who you are becoming.

And who you are becoming is dedicated to becoming like Jesus Christ.

Invitation. (To walk with Christ, to be a member of Christ's church, to fulfill your calling)

Communion.

1 Cor. 11:23-32

7. Jesus Paid It All.

8. I Surrender All.

Benediction.

Psalm 37:23-25

Small Group Questions.

- 1. Have a discussion about calling. What has God called you to do with your life?**
- 2. Do others affirm this with you and your life?**
- 3. How can you encourage and support each other in the calling that God has placed on each of your lives?**
- 4. How can you integrate your calling to support each other within your group and the church?**
- 5. Do not let anyone claim they have no calling, that is likened to claiming you were created for no purpose. You have a purpose. Our work is to determine what our calling is and our second work is to commit to it. Our third work is to encourage and support each other in that calling.**