



Sermon: The Call

December 15, 2023

- I. Introduction
 - a. God never promised all things would be good, he said it would work for good based upon two conditions.
 - b. Salvation is unconditional however the quality and results of your life are conditional.
- II. Two conditions for making your bad work for good.

Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30 AMPC

²⁸ We are assured *and* know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together *and* are [fitting into a plan] for good to *and* for those who love God and are called according to [His] design *and* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].

- a. Love God
 - b. Walk to your calling.
- III. The Call to Serve
 - a. Peter declared that the day of Pentecost was the beginning of the last days.

1 Peter 4:7-11 NKJV

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your **prayers**. ⁸ And **above all things have fervent love** for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, **minister it to one another, as good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- b. Peter gave a strategy for the church to be relevant and transform culture in the last days.
 - i. Pray
 - ii. Fervent Love
 - iii. Serving

- c. The world is becoming more self-centered and selfish. Peter strategy was to serve one another and love them instead of being self-centered.
- d. The number one need that we have is the need to feel significant! You find that through servanthood.
- e. **For God so loved the world..... He gave. When you and I are giving, we are the most like God.**
- f. There should be contrast with the world. We are called out. The world is selfish. We are called to servanthood.
- g. There are two callings
 - i. **Universal: The call to salvation.**
 - ii. **Servanthood: Once we accept salvation, there is another call.**

IV. The Biblical Definition of Servanthood

- a. I've made Jesus lord of my life.
- b. I've surrendered to His will.
- c. I'm faithful to the work He has given to me.
 - i. **I've been in some of the greatest churches and felt like something was missing. Usually, it wasn't the church that had something missing. It was that I had servanthood missing in my life.**
- d. You use the gifts and talents that God has given to you to benefit other people.

V. Foundation of Servanthood

- a. It leads to promotion, prominence, and greatness.

Mark 10:43-45 TLB

but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever wants to be greatest of all must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even I, the Messiah, ^(a) am not here to be served, but to help others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

- b. Great: God wants you to desire to be great.
 - i. The disciples were arguing who was the greatest.
 - ii. **Jesus didn't blast them about wanting to be great. He gave instructions of how to be great.**
 - iii. **It doesn't say when we worship or praise we are like Him but when we serve we are like Him.**
- c. Realize other people are important.

Philippians 2:3-5 AMPC

³ Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit *and* empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than *and* superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves]. ⁴ Let each of you esteem *and* look upon *and* be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

Romans 12:10-11 AMPC

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another. ¹¹ Never lag *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.

- d. We show honor to others!
- e. Burning with zeal to serve.

- i. How do you keep serving when people disappoint you? How do you keep going? You're not serving people, you are serving the Lord through serving people.
- ii. The Lord has never disappointed me.