Good News: Carriers Pt. 2

Answering God's Call!

(Read Aloud)
Luke 11:9-13 New Living Translation
9 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "You fathers—if your children ask[a] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

- Testimony of my baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- My sister Belinda and I shared an apartment at the time, and I had the master bedroom with a walk-in closet. I would go inside and lie on the floor with my mouth open asking God to fill me with Himself.
- I had one of my first open visions of being transported to a desert, lying on my back. I then extended my hand up to God and offered Him a rock. The next thing I saw was the arm of God swing down from Heaven and knock it out of my hand.
- God gave us something of great value when He gave us Jesus. He wants something of great value in return. He wants what He paid for.
- He wants those made in His image to carry His glory, not rocks.
- How many of you have given God a rock instead of your whole heart? As if He doesn't know the difference.

The Call

Ezekiel 36:24-27 New Living Translation
24 For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land. 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn

heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.[a] 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

- This morning as God was prompting me to wake up I had a dream/vision.
- I had an envelope in my hand and when I opened it, instead of a letter being inside a voice called out. It said C-A-L.
- After I got out of bed and started getting ready I asked the Lord why there was only one L in CALL?
- He said because HE fulfills the CALL on our lives, He brings it to completion.
- I was reminded to never forget that it was God Himself within Christ redeeming humanity back to life, withing Himself**.**
- **2 Corinthians 5:19-20 New Living Translation**
  19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"
- I was also reminded that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit.
- **Matthew 1:18 New Living Translation**
  18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- So when it comes to being a disciple, or carrier of God's spirit and good news. You will receive the call, and yes, you must respond, but He fulfills it.
- **C-A-L-L**
- **(C)ALL (A)NSWER (L)EAVING (L)EADING**
- God is at the beginning initiating the call, and at the end leading you into His completed purpose for your life.
- He's calling you into a life of faith.
- Love, identity, faith, and eternal purpose.
- Author and finisher of our faith
- **Hebrews 12:1-2 New King James Version**
  12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily

ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- He calls, we answer, we leave our lives behind, He leads!
- We respond (answer) then leave (obey)
- **Matthew 16:24-25 New Living Translation**
  24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

Noise Pollution

- Not every call comes directly from God; most will come through us, His reconcilers. We are called, we anwer, we leave, He leads.
- In order for us to hear God's voice, we must turn down the noise.
- The more you deny yourself the louder His voice gets.

What is the noise?

1 John 2:15-17 New Living Translation
15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure (lust of the flesh), a craving for everything we see (lust of the eyes), and pride in our achievements and possessions (the pride of life). These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Lust of the flesh
Food noise
Physical pleasure

Matthew 4:1-11 New Living Translation
Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3

During that time the devil[a] came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’[c]” 7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’[d]” 8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’[e]” 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Lust of the eyes
Coveting
Evil desires

Pride of life
Accomplishments
Wealth, greed

Romans 12:1-2 New Living Translation
12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Be not conformed to the patterns (trends, addictions, ways, behaviors) of this world but be transformed…
- Don’t alow the noise pollution to bring corruption into your lives.
- As a carrier, may the spirit of Christ always be found within you, in all of your ways.

Genesis 4:7 New Living Translation
7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

- Sin wants control of everything, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we must subdue it!
- Food wants control
- Nicotine wants control
- Your phone wants control
- Anger wants control
- Fear wants control
- Lust wants control

Romans 8:12-14 New Living Translation
12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,[a] you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,[b] you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children[c] of God.

Postured for Power

How do you know you're doing something for God? Because you can't do it without God!

The call:
You'll be disciple makers
Go to Jerusalem
You'll receive power

Acts 1:4-8 New Living Translation
4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with[b] water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him,

“Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” 7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- To be carriers of the good news, we must first receive power from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
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Acts 1:4 New Living Translation
4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

- Were they willing and obedient? Are we?

Acts 2:1-21 New Living Translation
On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. 5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. 7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are-Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" 14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake

about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 17 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants-men and women alike- and they will prophesy. 19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below- blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Willingness to Pay the Price

Luke 9:57-62 New Living Translation
The Cost of Following Jesus
57 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” 59 He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.” 60 But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead![a] Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” 61 Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” 62 But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Romans 12:1-2 New Living Translation
12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

John 4:23-24 New Living Translation
23 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will

worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

What Not to Carry

1 John 4:1-6 New Living Translation
4 Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. 2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet[a] acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. 3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. 4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. 5 Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. 6 But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

2 Timothy 1:7 New King James Version
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Colossians 3:1-4 New Living Translation
3 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your[a] life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

What to Carry

Carry Your Cross
Matthew 16:24 New Living Translation

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

Carry The New Nature
Colossians 3:10 New Living Translation
10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

Carry the Frut of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23 New Living Translation
22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Carry Good Works
Matthew 5:13-16 New Living Translation
13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.