

COMMUNION

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” Isaiah 43:2

We had a wonderful time on Wednesday night learning or Shabbat (or sabbath) in our Chosen Bible Study. We learned that sabbath is a time to remember and celebrate God creation, his presence and provision in our lives. A time to be with him

In the OT the Sabbath celebrates God’s miraculous rescue of His people from Egypt, His daily provision for them in the wilderness, and Israel’s total dependence on Him. But remembering God’s faithfulness to the chosen people of the OT isn’t the endgame; it serves as our reminder that He **remains** faithful. That He’s present right now. That He’s still providing, leading, and working on behalf of His chosen people. And that He’s worthy of our ongoing dependence.

Jesus doesn’t instruct weary, burdened people to sleep more, caffeinate more, or take a vacation. Instead, He invites us to come to Him, and when we do, He provides us with rest.

While we can rest our bodies anytime we choose, soul rest only happens in the presence of our Creator. The One who knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matt. 10:30; Luke 12:7) and keeps track of our sorrows (Ps. 56:8). The One intimately aware of our unique challenges and all the ways He’s going to use them for good (Rom. 8:28). The One who loves us enough to be our rescuer—in spite of our sin and struggle—knowing what it would cost Him (Rom. 5:8). And the One leading us through water and flame to the Promised Land of heaven, where there will be no more fear, pain, or strife (Rev. 21:4). In His presence, we experience provision and peace and rest that supersede hard things—because of who He is.

During a typical Friday Evening Shabbat dinner, after singing two hymns the host will recite the following prayer of blessing and sanctification (a Kiddush) over the bread and the wine

“Now the heavens and the earth were completed and all their host ...

And God completed on the seventh day His work that He did, and God abstained on the seventh day from all His work He did.

And God blessed the seventh day and He hallowed it, for thereon He abstained from all His work that God created to do.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine ...

You have lovingly and willingly given us Your Shabbat as an inheritance in memory of creation ... Because it is the first day of our holy assemblies, in memory of the exodus from Egypt.

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Amen.”

Understanding Shabbat, helps us understand our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. It too is done in remembrance of God’s provision and celebration of His continued presence in our lives.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “**This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.**” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Father as we take The Bread, we declare...

Blessed are You, Lord, our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

We thank you for bringing forth Jesus, THE BREAD OF LIFE, to be the provision for all that we need. He is the truth, the life, and the way. We remember that He is with us today and always.

As we take the fruit of the vine, we Proclaim...

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine ...

We believe that Jesus blood was shed for our sins. That by believing in him we have forgiveness of those sins and enter into a covenant relationship with him that will sustain us until he comes again.

Changing or Being Changed (Part 6)

Sunday, August 8, 2021

KEY TEXT:

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Samuel 10:6

6 The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you...and you will be changed into a different person.

Are we **CHANGING** (conforming more and more to the things of this world) or **are we BEING CHANGED** (transformed) by the power of God?

We have seen that God wants to **TRANSFORM** us by giving us...

- A CHANGED LIFE
- CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES
- A CHANGED FUTURE
- A CHANGED DESTINY
- CHANGED DIRECTION
- A CHANGED WALK
- CHANGED VALUES
- CHANGED PRIORITIES
- CHANGED THINKING
- A CHANGED UNDERSTANDING
- A CHANGED MIND
- CHANGED CHOICES
- A CHANGED ATTITUDE
- A CHANGED HEART

A CHANGED PURPOSE... Peter

Luke 5:1-11

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2** He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke gives us a little more detail and a slightly different perspective about the calling of the disciples.

Matthew more vaguely focuses on the fact that Jesus met these Fishermen at the sea of Galilee, that he called them and that they left their nets and boats and followed him.

Luke gives us a little more information about Jesus’ interaction with them (Peter specifically) and the resulting impact on their decision to follow Jesus.

What I want you to see, overall, is that Jesus CHANGED their PURPOSE that day. They were one thing and Jesus transforms them into something different. They had one purpose (fishing), but Jesus changed that purpose (Fishing for people).

Our purpose can either be shaped by the world or it can be directed by God. So, you can conform to the purpose the world says you should have (and by the world I mean culture, friends, family, your own thoughts and desires, circumstances, your past, your talents) or you can allow God to transform your purpose into what He wants it to be.

We refer to the vehicle that God uses to change our purpose as HIS CALL on our lives. Today I want to talk to you about letting God change your purpose by responding to HIS CALL.

Throughout the scripture we see that the CALL OF GOD changes people’s lives and gives them a different purpose.

- He called Abram and changed him from a barren nobody into the Father of many nations
- He called Joseph and changed him from a hated brother into the savior of His people
- He called Gideon and changed him from a coward into a mighty warrior
- He called David and changed him from a shepherd boy into a King
- He called Mary and changed her from a frightened little girl into the mother of our Lord and Savior

But along with the calling of the disciples one of my favorite stories of the Call of God is found in the book of 1 Samuel Chapter 3.

1 Samuel 3

3 The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. **3** The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." **5** And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. **9** So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. **12** At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I

spoke against his family—from beginning to end. **13** For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. **14** Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, **16** but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.”

Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

17 “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” **18** So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

19 The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. **20** And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. **21** The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

A CHANGED PURPOSE... Peter

- **His Call GETS your ATTENTION**
 - The Word of the Lord was rare, there were not many visions (This is not because God had stopped speaking but because his people had quit listening and obeying)
 - In Luke 5 we see similar conditions... There were people crowding around him and listening to the Word of God. (But were they paying attention?)
 - Eli's eyes were weak, laying down in his usual (sometimes we need God ordained change to stir us out of our complacency)
 - The lamp of God had not yet gone out (God is trying to get our attention in these last days before it's too late)
 - Called to him multiple times - stood there calling as at other times (God is persistent in getting our attention)
 - He Got into Simons boat (to get his attention)

- His Call **GAINS** your TRUST

- The Word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him - Samuel did not yet know the Lord (Sometimes we must learn his voice. Don't discount the voice of an older generation to help you figure out your call... *"God will use older and wiser authority figures to help you discern the call of God on your life"* - **Micah MacDonald**)
- He tells Simon to put out into deep water and let his nets down for a catch (trust me)
- We've worked hard all night, but because you say... (It's time for us to stop trusting in our own strength, purposes, and plans.)
- Caught such large number of fish that their nets began to break (God is teaching us that his ways work, if we will trust him, He will anoint us for His purposes. *"God equips those He Calls"* He will fill us with His Holy spirit and give us the power to accomplish what we cannot accomplish by ourselves)

- His Call **GRIPS** your HEART

- Your servant is listening (I am paying attention and I want to hear what you have to say)
- **19** The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. **20** And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord **21** The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.
- Go away from me Lord I am a sinful man... Don't be afraid... (Simon's heart is convicted and then captured by this man. We will never follow God's call until we acknowledge our sinfulness)
- We are not called because of who we are, but because of who He wants us to be
- We are not disqualified because of who we have been but are qualified because of who He is

- His Call **GRASPS** your ALLEGIANCE

- Here I am (our willingness to accept his call, his purpose for our life)
- Isaiah responded similarly "Here I am send me"
- Peter, Andrew, James & John demonstrated their allegiance by leaving their nets, their boats, and their families behind to follow Jesus
- **Luke 9:23**
23 Then he said to them all: **"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.**
- *"If you think the call of God has something to do with you, you are wrong. It has everything to do with Him"* - **Micah MacDonald**

- **His Call GIVES you your ASSIGNMENT**

- I am about to do something (God has powerful plans for this world and He wants to use you to accomplish those plans)
- He was afraid to tell Eli the vision (God's assignments are not easy and will require sacrifice)

Results And Roses

The man who wants a garden fair,
Or small or very big,
With flowers growing here and there,
Must bend his back and dig.

The things are mighty few on earth
That wishes can attain.
Whate'er we want of any worth
We've got to work to gain.
It matters not what goal you seek
Its secret here reposes:
You've got to dig from week to week
To get Results or Roses.

- Put out into DEEP water (God's assignments will usually put you in over your head)
- Fish for people (a whole lot harder than fishing for people but a whole lot more rewarding)
- Maybe Jesus first called fishermen because he needed people who weren't afraid of hard smelly work (and that's what ministry is, that's what God's purpose for your life will be)
- That doesn't mean there won't be rewards but what it does mean is that God's purpose for us, first and foremost, is to be a SERVANT
- *"To follow the call of God is to carry the greatest title you could ever carry - SERVANT" - Micah MacDonald*
- Pastor Greg Ford spoke this week about the Donkey Assignment. He was referring to Saul, before he was made king, having been given an assignment by his father to go with the servant to find the Donkeys that had gone missing. It represents something that we feel is beneath us or couldn't possibly be a part of God's purposes for our lives. But that's exactly what we find. God's purpose means serving
- Jesus said that...

Matthew 20:26-28

26 ...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- *"If you're too big to serve your too small to lead" - Rich Wilkerson*

- Interestingly, as I began to think about that Donkey Assignment, it dawned on me that this is exactly the part of the story we have been reading for these last several weeks in 1 Samuel 10. In other words, it was in the middle of the Donkey Assignment that Samuel tells Saul that the Holy Spirit will come powerfully upon him, and he will be changed into a different person. That's what we need. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to prepare us for the assignments of servanthood that God has for us

So, are you ready to be transformed and allow God to Change your Purpose?

You can conform to the World and be what it wants you to be, or you can answer the call of God, leave those old purposes behind, and start fulfilling His purposes for your life today.