



A detailed look at how  
you are to respond to  
God's call

## Introduction

**Previously** we discussed how we are uniquely “crafted by God” and then we considered the stages in Moses’ life

**Last time**, we began to consider how the calling of God is working in your life by thinking together about another example: the life of Joseph and His calling Timeline.

**TONIGHT**, In our last segment, we want to take the call of God seriously as the starting line of the Christian life.

## Nothing Significant Happens before we respond to the call

**There are many believers who are on standby because they refuse to respond to God’s call**

This is not to say that they are not believers or that they are not saved by God’s unmerited favor and grace. Faith is all that is required to believe and be saved.

But it is to say that such believers can be willfully avoiding, disregarding or ignoring all together that God has called them and therefore find themselves living in a stage of life where God’s most significant work is not yet active.

## The Call of God is Active upon all

Let us look at Isaiah 55 and hear God’s pleading and compassion in His call on your life. This is the call of the lord in detail. Each step is important, and we should take time to consider our response in each step.

### 1. COME TO HIM

“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters; and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

For most, too much energy and time is spend here, not coming to Him while we spend our lives going after that which does not satisfy.

## 2. LISTEN TO HIM

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;

**Listening is a very personal thing.** Many people hear but do not listen. Diligence in listening leads to discovery and preparation for what God has in store for you. This is where your soul comes alive and you begin to enjoy life with God.

## 3. BEHOLD HIS WORK (*In Those called*)

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

The example of David is a classic view of how God takes the small and insignificant ones, looks upon the heart, and **does much with them**.

## 4. SEEK HIM

<sup>6</sup> "Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

- Seeking is the process of forsaking our ways and returning to His ways.
- Seeking is experience God's compassion on your life, giving you so much that you do not deserve or could ever obtain.
- Seeking

## **THE REASONS WE SHOULD COME, LISTEN, BEHOLD, SEEK**

- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

His thought, His ways are **so much greater!**

## **THE REASON ILLUSTRATED**

- <sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

As natural as rain watering the ground, God's word waters and brings growth and accomplishes his great purposes. Without fail, **It will succeed!**

## **THE RESULTS OF RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL**

- <sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
- <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."