

Holy Calling

1 Timothy 1: 8-9*God, who has saved us and called us with a **holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began*

Do you know that you are called with a holy calling?

We will focus on 3 areas:

1. Ministry Calling,
2. Supporting Calling,
3. Marketplace Calling

Ministry Calling:

Ephesians 4:11-12 *So Christ himself gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **pastors** and **teachers**, 12to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

I regard this as a very important calling, but don't have time to elaborate on it today.

Supporting Calling

In the New Testament we read of people working in Teams

Jesus had a team around him:

Luke 8: 1-3 *After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.*

- Jesus had a team of people around him.
- They did not have impressive CV's. Many of the disciples were uneducated fishermen. Matthew used to be a tax collector, which was regarded as a very unethical job. Mary used to have 7 demons in her. Joanna's husband was manager of Herod's household. Herod was the evil king who beheaded John the Baptist.
- Many of these disciples we only read their names where account is given about Jesus calling them. Otherwise we don't know anything from them, other than that they journeyed with Jesus.

Looking back – do you think these disciples and these ladies lived their holy calling? Maybe your Holy Calling is to just go along, to support.

Peter's team when he visited Cornelius

In Acts 10 & 11 we read a remarkable story which demonstrate the importance of supporting team.

This was the first time the gospel was preached to Gentiles - Very important to us.

Acts 10: 23 -24 *Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and **some of the believers from Joppa went along.** 24The following day he arrived in Caesarea.*

Then Peter share the Gospel and this happens:

Acts 10:44 – 48 *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The **circumcised believers who had come with Peter** were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered **that they be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Then in Acts 11 we read that the believers criticised Peter because he went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them. Peter went to Jerusalem and told the whole story.

Acts 11:12*The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. **These six brothers** also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.*

He relied on the brothers who went with him to be witnesses of what happened.

Acts 11:18*When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”*

A couple of points to note:

- Was it easy? No – Caesarea is 50km north of Joppe. Jerusalem is 64km south east of Joppe. They had to walk a long distance with Peter.
- Did they know what was going to happen? No, they just went along.
- Do you think these six men have a holy calling? Yes, they played a crucial role in the ministry of the gospel to Non-Jews like us.

I can tell you many stories of the wonderful things which came out of just going along.....

I want to encourage you - Just go along. Just go and support and help. That in itself is a Holy Calling. So if you stay a supporter all you life – great. Maybe you might move onto something else.

3. Marketplace Holy Calling

For many people the Holy Calling is an after hours event. We have holy time in the morning and evening, but from 8 – 5 we disappear to work, which is not part of our holy calling.



It is a huge problem if we regard work as not part of our Holy Calling. We were created to work.

Gen 1:28 *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

Gen 2:15 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it.***

God's intention was never to separate work and our holy calling.

Ideally we want to change this so that we live our holy calling all day.

I share the story of coming to realisation that my job / business should be a blessing to all stakeholders Clients, Suppliers, Employees, Shareholders, Community, Church, Family

In a competitive environment we must be super efficient to be able to be a blessing to all those stakeholders. God will guide us, give us wisdom, give us favour.

Money is central in business. However, that is not new. Money is a very relevant topic in the bible. In fact, Jesus says more about money than any other topic – including Heaven and Hell. So, if you are in business it will benefit you greatly if you educate yourself on what the bible teach about money.

I share stories of the following business who are great examples of kingdom businesses:

- Francois van Niekerk & Mergon Foundation
- SAAD & Tree of Life foundation
- Six 33

Organisations who support and educate kingdom business people / entrepreneurs

- Triga Ventures
- Ziwani
- Faith Driven Entrepreneur
- Crown Financial Ministries

Books I recommend:

- Managing God's Money – Randy Alcorn
- Anointed for Business – Ed Silvano