

CallingQuest

A Word for Teens: "Make Your Calling...Sure"

Thought Captivation:

"We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" 2 Cor. 10:5

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The last thing on my mind was God's call on my life. How did I get this way? I was empty and untouched by the way the weekend retreat was going. It seemed like everyone was crying but me. My group leader suggested I "get alone with God" so I went to the chapel.

A medical doctor just finished a long talk about how Jesus died on the cross. It didn't affect me like it did everyone else. At 16 years old I was really alone and, for the first time in my life, really on my knees. At the foot of a cross I asked God why I didn't cry when I heard how he died. Thinking I might get an answer I waited. But God didn't speak to me like I thought He would.

Instead, trembling in the stillness, I saw something that began a slow, but radical change in my life. Holding my head down listening for God's voice over my hushed breath and the shaky beat of my heart I looked down and saw a vision of the nail scarred feet of Jesus. Too afraid to look up I said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

What God Wants

How many times have you been asked: "Do you know what you want to do when you grow up?" Architect was my answer. But whether you say law enforcement officer or racecar driver, teacher or president, it's the wrong question. When the apostle Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he asked: "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22:10) But first he asked: "Who are you, Lord?" The first thing God wants me to do is to know Him.

The Answer is Your Choice

Jesus didn't "say" anything more to me that day on my knees. It was years before I could say, "I know the Lord". Because I didn't know God, I couldn't know what He wanted me to do. So I made some big decisions on my own. How you make big decisions will tell the world what is most important to you. One of the most important decisions is the choice of a career or life-work, which often means going to university. I went to college because it was the next logical step in life; everybody was doing it. So instead of following the voice of God, I followed the crowd.

Ask Why?

Everybody says, "You gotta go to college!" Why? "So you can get a good job." But, why? "So you can make money." Why? "So you can be a success." Why? Is it because money is the most important thing in life? Too often God is left out of the most important decisions of thousands of Christian's lives.

What will you do? Are you going to college because "everybody else is going"? Or will you first be sure you know God and what He is calling you to do? Don't just give God your Sundays and Wednesdays. Give Him your whole life including what you give the greatest part of your life doing; give Him your career.

If you think, like most of the world, that having money is the way to success, you may be set up for frustration later in life. You could be

a success with money, but fail to know God's calling. Many Christians like me go to college without first knowing God intimately and choosing His answer, His call. I spent years and thousands of dollars preparing for a career that wasn't God's call. But God's gifts and calling will never go away. (Rom. 11:29)

God's most important call is not whether I go to college. Going to college isn't wrong, but making the decision to go without asking God is like telling Him, "You can have my Sundays and Wednesday nights, but all the rest is mine. I live in the real world."

Here's what you can do? Get alone, get quiet, and listen to God's voice. The Call of God is simple. It's hearing God's voice. The most important thing God calls us to is Himself. He wants you to know Him.

Listening to God isn't always easy. It's so much easier to listen to and follow the noisy global culture that shouts, "The one with the most stuff wins!" Do they really think material things are more important than the One who created all things?

Which will you choose? Ultimately, we must each choose to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ or followers of the world.

Don't go alone.

You can pray together with Christian friends (preferably mission outreach teammates) and decide together that you will follow God's call. You take the initiative. Get to know God. Seek the wisdom of your Pastor, Parents, or Youth Leader. You don't have to have all the answers, but you do need to choose. Meet with a few friends and promise in prayer that you want to know God and His calling before you go to college.

He called me.

Looking down in the chapel at my high school retreat, I saw the nail scarred feet of Jesus. Those feet carried him and the cross, the cruel instrument of his death, up the hill called Golgotha. God didn't speak to me the way I thought He would. He didn't say anything. He showed me that first I need to know Him as Savior and the price He paid for my sin. He called me like He called Adam; "Where are you?" But He didn't call me to do anything for Him. He called me just to know Him. That one call changed me. Tears finally did roll down my face the day I fully surrendered to follow those nail scarred feet anywhere He leads me.

Get alone with God now. He knows you. He'll call you too.

by John Henry
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