

## Who Has Been Called?

The current plea of the world is to have us think of ourselves before others. We see it everywhere we turn. The notion of "What's in it for me?" or "How can I get to the top faster?" is how the world is trying to get us to think. Reality television is one of the best examples of demonstrating this concept. You can even see it in news press conferences. Have you ever paid attention to the reporters at a press conference? You can hear them all throwing out questions at the same time trying to be the first to get recognized.

We also often do this in our day to day lives. Our impatience grows when we go to a store because we want to be the first in line just so we can hurry up and get to the next destination on our list of errands (I am guilty of this and I have seen others be guilty of this).

The world's way is opposite of God's way. Have you ever been to a place where you have to pick a number or write your name on a list? When you realize how many are ahead of you what is your first thought (be honest, God already knows)? For me it depends on the convenience or inconvenience of the situation. This mentality is also within the church walls.

There is an innate human desire to want to be acknowledged, seen as great, and to do great things. We are all called to be great in the Kingdom of God. How do I know this? Because we are all called to be conformed to the image of Jesus; to be the sons of God. The point is that we are all called. The Parable of the Wedding Feast is a great way to illustrate the point being made here.

***Matthew 22:1-14 - And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."***

Being called is one thing; doing what is required is something else. The world says be "me, me, me" minded. The Word of God says to be "we, we, we" minded focusing on others more than ourselves.

***Mark 10:41-45 - And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. 42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."***

How do we move forward? First, recognize and believe that YOU (yes you who are reading this) are called by God.

**John 17:20-26 - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."**

There is an order of progression after recognizing you have been called. The first is to come to love God which starts by believing in Him and His Word.

**Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

Notice this doesn't say that we have to have the highest test scores; the most money; the trendiest fashions or anything else the world tries to say we need to be successful. It says God foreknew us. It says God predestined us. It doesn't say He predestined us to be a world leader; an activist of a worthy cause; a mega superstar; a mighty prophet; etc. What does it say? God predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ! That is for all of us. The choice is within each of us to answer this call. It continues to say that once we are predestined (again, all of us) we are called, then justified, and lastly glorified. God does all of this; not us.

Who has been called? Every single human being who has, is, and will live on this earth. The real question is who will answer the call; the call to be conformed to the image of Jesus the Christ/Jesus the Anointed One/Yeshua Ha Mashiach?

**Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

**2 Peter 3:17-18 - You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.**

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