

Calling The Un-Callable


Sunday 22nd October 2023


Paul moves on from his description of the real issue with the Galatians' faith – turning to another gospel – to provide evidence of how the pure gospel makes the 'un-callable' callable.

 Paul continues in verse 11,

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man

In the previous couple of verses, Paul has said that he should never preach another gospel because he is not trying to win the favour of people or be a people-pleaser, otherwise he could not be considered a servant of Jesus. Paul cuts through that thought with a resounding BUT!

 He wants to be very clear there is NO WAY he is preaching another gospel because of three things – **(1) Who gave it to him, (2) how he was trying to destroy it, and (3) God's pleasure in whom He calls.**

 Verse 12 confirms the origins of this gospel Paul was living and preaching,


For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Back in the book of Acts, Luke records the instructions Jesus Christ gave

 Ananias in Acts 9:15, 19-20


But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. [...] ¹⁹So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

 **There is nothing more amazing or compelling than the revelations of Jesus Christ through His gospel.**


 Now, what about this highly un-callable man called Paul (Saul originally)? Read verse 13,

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

Let's be honest, in your minds you have a list of some specific individuals and members of specific groups who could never be called by God to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ spilled on a cross on a rubbish dump outside Jerusalem has the power to save to the uttermost. And that

 **gospel screams out that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. To say otherwise is to make yourself an enemy of the cross of Jesus Christ.**

When I was a school chaplain, I was responsible for selecting pupils to do readings in both Christmas and Easter services. I would announce it in assemblies and would have a few come forward and on one occasion I remember a lad coming forward who was everyone's last choice to read the Scriptures in a church. But to me it was a witness to God's power to choose the un-choosable; to call the un-callable, because THAT is what your God does!

 Now let us turn our eyes upon the God who called Paul in Galatians 1, verses 15-16,

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, ¹⁶to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood

 Listen to the words of Jesus in John 15:16,

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

We don't qualify ourselves. Paul spoke of his qualifications in Galatians 1:14 'having advanced beyond many of his contemporaries'. But **God's calling alone qualifies those He calls.**

Beyond the Bible, my all-time favourite story of God calling was in the life of Nicky Cruz. He was surrounded by witchcraft, demonic activity, and violence growing up. In the late 1960s he became president of the Mau Maus, a violent NY gang made up of Puerto Rican immigrants intent on taking territory by any means. Never far from the powerful aroma of various narcotics, Nicky stabbed a total of 16 people.

But God called a skinny white preacher name David Wilkerson from the quiet countryside of Pennsylvania to bring the gospel to the Brooklyn alleyways and tenements darkened by the violence of drug-fuelled gangs. Eventually the light of the gospel David preached broke through into Nicky's violent heart.

Although David Wilkerson went to meet Jesus in 2011 Nicky is still preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ today.

Let me close with the words of the Lord concerning the prophet Jeremiah (1:4-8),

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."

⁷But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.

If you are saved, you are called, however un-callable you think you are. You and your past cannot make you un-callable, because the gospel of Jesus Christ means God can, and does, call anyone...including you.



So, what should we now do?

1. If God is calling you today – do not resist! Reply with the words of Samuel, speak Lord for your servant is listening.
2. If you want to have authority in your witness you need Jesus as your teacher – not Google, YouTube, or even your friends and their opinions – only Jesus.
3. If you want to be truly amazed at the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you need to listen to Jesus directly through the words of Scripture –
4. Some of you should not be in this church any more, you should have taken that calling that God placed over your life and go serve Him.
5. Some of you are motivated to keep yourself as comfortable or at least insulate yourself from other peoples' lives. It's time to trust Him and lean into His calling, because God has never called a single soul through the blood-stained gospel of Jesus Christ to become comfortable.
6. You may well be standing in the middle of your calling and you need the Lord to touch you and fill you with His words (Jeremiah 1:9-10).
7. Maybe to are resisting His call. Today, won't you give into his grace and His calling. Will you now surrender, wherever you are, to the gospel of Jesus Christ?