

THE URGENCY OF GOD'S CALL

Matthew 4:17-23

In the early days of Jesus' ministry, He went about preaching the Kingdom of God. On one occasion, He came across two brothers who were casting their nets, and He said to them, "follow me," and they did. Notice that these two brothers were called whilst they were busy with something [their job]. They could have easily asked themselves, "why me or why now?" And hide behind their occupation as an excuse not to follow Jesus. How would you respond if God told you to stop what you are doing right now and follow Him?

God chooses you even in your busy schedule. Therefore, do not postpone your service to God for a time when you have it all figured out or for a moment in your life when you have nothing to do. Amid busyness, you ought to make time for God. Notice that the brothers immediately responded in obedience without delay or excuse. Nobody knows the future, so do not postpone but entrust your tomorrow in the hands of the one who holds it because what if you never get free time?

Do not delay your response to the call because you are trying to sort out life's problems. The devil tricks you into believing that you can solve all your problems, but God is the one who holds everything and can solve any problem. When you set out to solve your problem, the more these problems pile up. If you focus on solving all your issues, it will give you a reason to delay the calling of God.

Another common reason why people delay their commitment to follow Christ fully is that they want to achieve their goals and make ends meet. You need to realise that God is the ultimate provider, and what you gather as provision can't even come close to fully



providing for all your needs as God can. Many other things will begin to call you whenever there's a call on your life. Notice how many other activities spring up when you want to read your Bible or do anything beneficial to your spiritual nurturing. It is essential to know how to allocate time for everything. God has made it so that time should be allocated for everything, including Him. So, don't rob God of His time.

God calls you because there is an urgency, and He invites you to participate in His great plan for humanity. Participating in His plan includes serving in your local church. Jesus said, "follow me and I will make you fishers of man". Your role is to follow, and the making is God's responsibility. Transformation is only possible if the mind is renewed because you are then able to buy into God's plan. When it

comes to renewing the mind, it is crucial to put yourself in an environment that is conducive for the word of God to work effectively. Part of being in a conducive environment implies leaving certain things, including friends. If anything hinders you from growing in your walk, you should let it go.

It should boost your confidence to know that you will not be alone when you respond to the calling. 1 John 4:13 [ESV] says, "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit." The disciples could only go as far as Jesus went during Jesus' earthly ministry. They were restricted by His geographical location. As for you, Jesus lives within, and because of that, you can become His living expression everywhere you go.

The Spirit in you makes you resemble Jesus, giving you a new shape. Therefore, in everything you do, you should represent God. You are not a mere man anymore but a representative of the Kingdom - you carry the weight of an ambassador. Walk with the mindset of who you are and who you represent. The new shape makes you an influencer, a messenger and a witness. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood as witnesses refusing to bow to the statue [Daniel 3:14-25]. Many things in this world call you to bow, but just like those young men, you should refuse. Trust God to deliver you as He did for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and prioritise God's call over your life.

