

## **CAREER VS CALLING**

***Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1: 46-48)***

On Sunday night I overheard two parents talking as I was watching Coral at basketball practice. The one parent asked the other when he would get off work for the Christmas break. The parent responded he had to work until December 23<sup>rd</sup> and then did not have to return until January 4, 2021. It sounded like a pretty good time off to me, but the other parent said, *that's awful that you have to work up until December 23<sup>rd</sup>*. When she said this, I began wondering what she would think if she heard my answer to her question:

- I will be working on December 24<sup>th</sup>
- I am on call for emergencies on December 25<sup>th</sup>
- I will be working on December 26<sup>th</sup> filming our online service
- I will be working on December 27<sup>th</sup>
- I will be working the week between Christmas and New Years
- I will be working January 2, 3, & 4<sup>th</sup>

After hearing this, if she asked what I did for a living, she would discover that there is a difference between having a career and having a calling. The other parent has a career, while I have a calling. I do not begrudge at all the time commitment or sacrifices that come with a calling and neither did Mary.

Mary had a unique calling as the one chosen by God to conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Son of The Most High. The timing of this calling was not convenient as it came before she married her fiancé Joseph. Nor did this calling come without uncertainties or challenges such as Joseph's reaction to the news. Despite this Mary accepted her calling when she responded

***I am the Lord's Servant. May everything You have said about me come true.***

She accepted her calling and embraced it for its uniqueness. We see this in her song of praise:

***Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1: 46-48)***

I admire Mary for not only accepting her calling but embracing it with joy despite the uncertainties that lay ahead for her.

Many of you have had or still have careers, some as teachers, some in offices, some in retail, some in trades, some in nursing and so on. What makes the Christian life so unique is we have both a career and a calling. God has blessed us with careers to provide for ourselves and our families, but once we give our lives to HIM, He has also given us a calling. Our calling involves:

- *Following His will for our lives as opposed to our own,*
- *Obedying His commandments for living rather than ours,*
- *Using our gifts and talents for His glory rather than ours,*
- *Making our relationship with Him our top priority,*
- *Forgiving others, loving others, helping others,*
- *And witnessing to others.*

We may still have our careers or may be retired from them, but we will always have our calling until the day Jesus returns or calls us home. Sometimes we need to be reminded that we have this calling from the Lord and how different it is from our careers. We also need to be reminded like Mary never to begrudge it or find it a burden, but rejoice about it and appreciate it. I pray this season of Advent and Christmas will be a season that will help you to embrace your calling and appreciate what God is wanting to accomplish through you.

Enjoy this season and embrace again the joy of your calling.

Keep safe and God Bless

***Pastor Dean***