

Jan 15, 2012

### **Let us live worthy of our calling**

Many people are ignorant of the fact that God is calling them (My prayer is that my readers are not one of them). This is the reason many lives profane God's name instead of bringing Him glory. From the time Adam and Eve ran away from God and hid themselves behind the bushes (thinking that that they can hide from Him) God has been calling everyone in many ways. Finally through His Son Jesus he has once again called us into His eternal Kingdom of Heaven of Glory (Gen 3:9,Is 65:2,1 Thes 2:12,2 Thes 2:14). The triune God Himself came into the world as a man in Jesus and showed how each individual can live in this world pleasing God as a perfect human being. Jesus left us the best model and example to follow and showed us how a person can live as God's beloved son and servant on earth.

To live like Jesus as God's beloved son and servant one has to be born (born again) of the Holy spirit just as Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit and be anointed like Him to complete the work to which God has been calling us (Today's Gospel lesson) and walk in the example He has set before us (Today's Epistle lesson). Jesus had set the best example as God's servant so that we can follow and finish the work God has called us to do (Today's Old Testament lesson).

### **The Gospel Lesson: Mathew 3:13-17** **Let us hear and obey God's Call**

When Jesus lived in this world he had none of the amenities we call as basic. He lived in house where there is only one room .No electricity. He made the best use of what God gave Him and fulfilled God's purpose for His life which also included fulfilling his responsibility towards His Godly parents Mary and Joseph. He set a perfect pattern for anyone to grow. Luke reported that Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). From His Childhood He knew His Scripture (Bible-Old Testament).As a boy of 12 He stunned the so called Rabbi's (pundit's) in the temple with his understanding of the Scripture. When God's word came to Him to be baptized through John the Baptist Jesus took baptism. The baptism that John gave to people was the baptism for the remission of Sins. Jesus was sinless even from His birth because He was born of God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Yet He took baptism to identify Himself with the humanity in order to take on Him the sins of the world and their punishment, curse and death on their behalf. He glorified God by completing the work God had given Him. In doing so God was well pleased with Him. He was humble and meek and left us an example to learn from Him walking in His footsteps. This is today's epistle lesson.

**The Epistle lesson: 1 Pet 3:18-22**  
**Let us walk in His foot steps**

Peter, John and other disciples knew how Jesus lived doing God's will. They heard him say that doing the will of His Father was His food (John 4:34). They saw only words of grace coming out from His mouth (Luke 4:22). They never saw any malice in Him. In front of them He challenged His enemies to show any sin in Him (John 8:46). Even though He was tempted like us in every area He never sinned (Heb 4:15). In this way He fulfilled the Law (scriptures) in Himself. That's why Paul said that Christ was the end of the Law (Rom 10:4).

Even though He was God, yet he never thought it to be His right but humbled himself by making himself nothing by becoming a servant and died on the cross (Phil 2:1-10). Today's Old Testament lesson teaches us the same fact how Jesus as the servant of Jehovah was called in His mother's womb to become the instrument of salvation unto the ends of the earth and display God's splendor and show to the world the true God.

**The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6**  
**Let us be God's approved servants**

In the book of Isaiah the passages 42:1-6, 49: 1-6, 50: 6-10, 52:13-53:12 are called servant songs. All these scriptures are fulfilled in the life of Jesus as the servant of Jehovah. In this way Jesus lived in this world worthy of His calling and glorified God. The God who formed Jesus in mother's womb to be His servant has also chosen us in Jesus before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will, so that we may bring praise to His glorious grace which He had freely given us (Eph 1:4-6). Those God predestined; He also called to be like His son Jesus; those He called He also justified; those He justified He also glorified (Rom 8:29)

How did Jesus know God's purpose for His life? He knew it from the Bible He had which was the Old Testament containing Pentateuch (Law), prophetic books, and Historical books, and Psalms. The reason why many of us do not know that God is calling us is we do not use the Bible in way it has to be used. People, whose minds and hearts are not opened by spiritual birth cannot see God or hear His voice in the Bible. We have to realize that every time we hear God's word in any context, whether in the church, thanksgiving meeting, marriage or funeral or when we read our Bibles or messages and books God is speaking to us. Because we don't realize that God speaks to us we are not able to live a life worthy of our calling and quite often God's name is profaned because of our lives. Like Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus time

we do not know the scriptures or the power of God. Therefore we are in error (Mark 12:24). Also the word of God says my people perish because of the lack of knowledge which is nothing but the word of God (Hosea 4:6)

Jesus did not live by bread alone but by every word that came out of the mouth of God so that what all the prophets spoke were fulfilled in His life. He also asked us to live like that (Mathew 4:4). Just as God called Jesus in His mother's womb He has been calling every one of us. Jesus lived without seeking any reward from any one because He knew that God would reward Him. Therefore we should also live in that way expecting that one day God will reward us (Rev 22:8, 1 Cor 9:24). Jesus knew His God and that was the secret of His power to do great things and God glorified Him. People like Peter, John Paul and others in the Bible knew their God and waited on God and so they were strong and did great things for God (Is 40:31, Dan 11:32).

The splendor of God was displayed in Jesus and God made Him light for the gentiles that He might bring salvation to the ends of the earth. God is calling all of us now, that His splendor may also be displayed in us and that we become His lights in the world and bring salvation unto the ends of the earth. Jesus lived as the living light and lighted many darkened lives and dispelled the darkness of sin where ever He went. He also commissioned those whose lives were lighted by Him to go unto the ends of the world making disciples and live like stars forever giving the light of the glory of God. If we live in this way one day when we go to heaven God will be so pleased that He will say, "Well done good faithful Servants". So let us hear His call today and make our lives worthy by obeying it. May God help us! Amen.

### **Life Application:**

1. Let us hear God's call in 1 Thes 1:11-12, 2 Thes 2:14.
2. Let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Given below is how Jesus lived on earth.

### **The Exemplary life of Jesus we find in the Gospels**

1. As a boy of 12 he was doing His Father's business (Luke 2:49). (What about us, are we doing what Jesus did? Are we in the Father's business?)
2. He used to get up very early in the morning, while it was still dark, and go to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35). During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission- Hebrew 5:7. (How much time are we spending in prayer daily?)

3. Jesus knew where He came from and where He was going (John 8:14). He knew God's purpose for His life. (Do we know God's purpose for your life?)
4. "My food," Jesus said "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. That means 24 hours He is on His Father's business. (How much time do we spend daily thinking of God and His work).
5. Jesus did everything according to God's will (John 5:30). (Are we living according to God's will? Do we know God's will?)
6. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). He never used to say anything or do anything without learning from His Father (John 8:28). (Do we have that learning attitude towards spiritual things?).
7. Jesus glorified God on the earth by completing the work that God gave Him to do (John 17:4). (Do we know the work that God has given us?)
8. He chose to die for His brothers and never went back on that (Mark 10:45). We too are supposed to do that (1 John 3:17). (If that is God's standard do we at least talk to our brothers?)
9. He never shun His responsibility towards his parents (John 19:26). (Are we really bothered about our responsibility towards of our aging parents).
10. Even though He was tempted like us in everything, yet He never sinned (Hebrew 4:15). He never said "sorry". (Are we making an effort to be Holy?)
11. Whatever he preached He practiced (John 13:15). He prayed for those persecuted Him (Luke 23:34) (Do we practice what we preach or do we only preach?)
12. He made 12 disciples. (Are we His disciples? and are involved in making disciples?).
13. He healed many people and did many wonders, but never talked about them afterwards. (Do we always talk about miracles and healings leaving the most important commands of Jesus?).

Let us ask God the Holy Spirit to search our hearts as David in Ps 139:23,24 " Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting".

May we all hear His call, answer it and live according to it glorifying His Holy Name.  
Praise God!!!

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