
The Call of God

Narrow Gate Sunday

Bill Spencer June 30, 2019

The Call of God

Leviticus 1:1–2

Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock.’”

- The Hebrew name for the book of Leviticus is *Vayikra*, meaning “And He (God) called,”¹ which is derived from the first words of the book.
- Leviticus is an invitation from God and a picture of Jesus.
- This is not the first time Moses was called, but it illustrates how and why God calls.

**When God calls,
it is to beckon,
to invite,
and to draw us into
relationship with Him.**

Bezalel

- **Exodus 31:1–11**
- Bezalel’s name means “in the shadow of God,” and he is the first person Scripture refers to as having been filled with the Spirit of God.
- Bezalel was invited by God to accomplish a specific purpose—to create the tabernacle of meeting—and was overshadowed by and filled with the Spirit of God to complete this work.
- From the tabernacle of meeting, God called Moses in Leviticus 1.

Mary, the Mother of God

- **Luke 1:26–38**
- Mary was invited into a specific relationship with God.
- She was overshadowed by and filled with the Spirit of God, and from her came Jesus—the Tabernacle.
 - **John 1:14**
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - “Dwelt among us” is another way of saying *tabernacled* with us.
- From the Tabernacle that is Jesus, God calls us.

¹ Berlin, Adele; Brettler, Marc Zvi (2014). *Jewish Study Bible* (2 Rev ed. (November 2014) ed.). [S.l.]: Oxford University Press.

God's Call Is *To Us So that He Can Speak Through Us*

Leviticus 1:1–2

Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them . . .”

- God put His words into the mouth of Moses so that through Moses He could speak to His people.
- You are best ministered *to* when you are ministered *through*.
- Like Moses, when you are in a place where God can work through you to reach others, you will receive the blessing of that work as it flows around and through you.

**Until the words of God
become the words of you,
you don't have anything of eternal significance to say.**

The Call Is for Everyone

Leviticus 1:1–2

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- *Any one* of you means every one of us—male or female, old or young—no matter our circumstances or condition.

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- In the New Testament, Jesus issues a similar invitation, which is for everyone, especially those who are weary and burdened.

**No one is excluded from the call—
not even the unqualified and ill equipped.**

The Call Is Always the Same

Leviticus 1:1–2

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- God invites us to bring Him an offering of the livestock, or, “life” stock.
- God calls us to bring Him lives that are in our control—*our* lives.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- Paul gives us a New Testament illustration of this invitation by saying that we must bring the entirety of ourselves and offer it to God.
- It is an act of spiritual worship to give back to Him everything we have and everything we are. He gave us our aptitudes and skills—our very lives—and He will use them in the service of His Kingdom.

John 10:17–18

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

- Jesus modeled the very thing He wants us to do—to give our lives to God willingly and as an offering.

Close

There is a call—an invitation—for anyone and everyone to approach the throne of God.

Bezalel heard it.

Moses heard it.

Mary heard it.

Do you hear it?

Luke 1:38

Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

- Mary was willing to offer her life, no matter how difficult it would be, no matter what was required.

Our response should be like Mary’s response:

**You gave it all,
You can have it all,
no matter what.**

Question—Where would we be and how far would we go if we responded to the call by laying the last vestiges of our lives on the altar of God?

Invitation—God’s call is for you. Give Him your life, and watch how He uses it!

Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of the Hebrew name for Leviticus, “And He (God) Called,” for you personally and for the world?
2. What similarities do Bezalel and Mary share? How do these similarities overshadow any differences between them?
3. Have you experienced the power of being ministered to while you were being ministered through? If yes, how?
4. Does anything hold you back from believing that the call is—every single day—specifically for you?
5. What, if anything, is keeping you from accepting God’s invitation to lay the last vestiges of your life on His altar? If nothing, how has accepting the invitation changed your life?

NOTES