

Calling to follow Christ

"The history of a person's relationship with God is the story of how God calls him out, takes him on a journey and gives him his true name."

John Eldridge

1. Do you think you were driven or drawn to come to NYC?

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-20

2. Was the initial call to follow Jesus for you immediate or gradual? How does this effect your following his will for your life?

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. Mark 8:34-35

I have a feeling that if my life is motivated by my ambition to leave a legacy, what I'll probably leave as a legacy is ambition, but if my life is motivated by the power of the Spirit in me, if I live in the awareness of the indwelling Christ, if I allow his presence to guide my actions, to guide my motives, those sorts of things, that's the only time I think we really leave a great legacy. Rich Mullins

3. How can the search for our calling be motivated by that which Christ warns against that is by saving our lives instead of losing it? How should we be motivated in discovering our calling?

No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making (workmanship) and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. The Message Ephesians 2:10

We are God's workmanship (poiema, his work of art, his masterpiece) created (ktisthentes) in Christ Jesus. Both Greek words speak of creation. And each (workmanship and creation) declares that the work is God's ...for captive and condemned people cannot free themselves...But now he puts the matter beyond even the slightest shadow of a doubt. Salvation is creation, re-creation, new creation. Self-creation is a patent contradiction in terms. John Stott

4. God plays the role an artistic creator in our life, molding and shaping us to do good works. Is this humbling and freeing that he is in control of the process? What is our role; what are we to do?

Who are you? What are you to do? Both questions are answered in another: By what name does God call you? Your real name is the name God has given you. Understand that name and your vocation is set before you. Os Guinness

Jesus called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ...These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter) James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder).... Mark 3:13-17

He gave the disciples what it took for them to be disciples he didn't recognize that ability in them. Tim Keller

To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. Rev. 2:17

5. How does it make you feel that God has a name for you? How does that change how you will follow him today?

I hate navel gazing. I know sometimes you need to do work on yourself to fix something that's broken in the way you see yourself and the world but the greatest insights I have ever had into myself have been through other people... not just talking to them on a train or a plane but looking after people you kind of find yourself. Bono

6. How can intimacy with our Creator and service to others help us discover our true name and our calling to follow Christ?

Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.