

The 4 Callings of Leadership

~ a look at Jesus Christ according to the book of Hebrews

1. Son of God - Hebrews 1
 - a. Must have: Holy Spirit ~ Mat 1:20; Lk 1:35
 - b. Marked by: pure heart ~ Ps 24:4
 - c. Manifested in: Love righteousness & hate iniquity ~ Heb 1:8
 - d. Mission to:
 1. Rule as King/Judge ~ Heb 1:7
 2. Eternal Life ~ Heb 1:11-12

Brief Overview: Our first and foremost calling is to be a son of God. Before we are a pastor or an evangelist or a missionary, etc... we are to be true to our calling as a son of God. What makes someone a son of God? The HOLY Spirit!! (Galatians 4:5-7) If you don't have the Holy Spirit you are not a son of God. (Romans 8:9). What marks a son of God is their purity! (1 John 2:29) This is manifested in a dual fold nature: Love for righteousness and hatred for iniquity. Again according to Hebrews 1 why did God exalt Jesus above all the angels? Because of his LOVE for righteousness AND his hatred for iniquity. It must be BOTH. Not just one or the other or else it is a false balance (Prov 11:1) And why are we called to be sons of God? What is the mission: to rule/judge (1 Cor 6 & Rev 2) and to live for ever. Very simply put, if you do not love righteousness and hate iniquity according to God's Holy Spirit you will not be able to rule or judge properly and you will not be able to live for ever. Why did Adam and Eve have to suffer death? Because they did not HATE iniquity. Thus all who will inherit eternal life will be made pure by the Holy Spirit to love righteousness and hate iniquity as Jesus Christ himself. This is our first and foremost calling and we must never lose track of it as we go on to the other 3 callings. There is much more to pull out from the scripture which I will leave to the Holy Ghost and you to do.

2. Son of man - Hebrews 2
 - a. Must have: humble spirit ~ Phlp 2:8
 - b. Marked by: lowly mind ~ Phlp 2:1-5
 - c. Manifested in: patient sufferings & death to self ~ Heb 2:9
 - d. Mission to:
 1. Deliver others. ~ Heb 2:15
 2. Declare the name of God with power. ~ Heb 2:12
 3. Destroy the devil. ~ Heb 2:14

Brief Overview: If Jesus was just the Son of God then yes he would rule as king and yes, he would live for ever but guess what would happen to us? We would all perish. So while we are sons of God first and foremost, our calling does not end there; because if it ends there then the only one we have helped is ourselves and this is not being a true Christian. Notice the Son of God must have the Holy Spirit but the son of man must have a humble spirit. (Phlp 2) This is so important which is why Paul told Timothy not to lay hands on any man suddenly lest he would be lifted up with pride. One of the dangers of being a young zealous son of God that destroys all his idols (good thing) and learns to hate iniquity (good thing) and love the pure righteous doctrine of the Bible (good thing) is then looking around at everyone else who is so far from the righteousness of God and then rather than being moved with compassion to help them, he becomes lifted up with pride and has hatred towards them! This is why we must also remember that we are still flesh and blood sons of men for a purpose. And the purpose is to walk humbly, suffer patiently and die to ourselves so that we can actually be used to save

others! (not just ourselves). The only way we will ever be able to declare the name of God with power in the midst of the church is NOT just by being a pure son of God but by being a humble son of man who has died to self and allowed God's Spirit to raise us up. The only way we will ever be able to help a world that is held under the power of Satan and all manner of unclean spirits is if we humble ourselves to die to self so that we might by God's Spirit have the power to destroy the works of the devil in our families, churches and communities.

3. Apostle - Hebrews 3-4:13
 - a. Must have: hard-working spirit ~ John 5:17
 - b. Marked by: strong will ~ Luke 9:51
 - c. Manifested in: faithfulness and labour ~ 1 Cor 3:9-12
 - d. Mission to:
 1. Build God's house ~ Heb 3:3-6
 2. Finish the work before resting. ~ Heb 4:4, 11

Brief Overview: Very simply put, God has a gift and role for everyone in his body, which is the church. Jesus' calling was to be the first apostle of the New Testament (better than the apostles of the Old testament: Moses and Joshua). So after you become his son and show a desire to reach others with his gospel he will give you a gift in and for his church (must first make our work fit in the field before we can build the house – Prov 24:27) So God will NOT give you a gift for his church until AFTER you have proved that you have a desire to reach people as a son of man. So if someone supposedly has position in the church but has never exercised their calling as a son of man, then guess what? They have taken that position by force and thus it will not last. It is very important to have a strong will when it comes to the gifts of God. It is easy to get distracted but remember Jesus was never distracted from his calling as the Father's apostle sent to preach the gospel, heal the wounded, and faithfully give Israel the words of God. (By the way in John 17:4 when Jesus says that he finished the work that the Father gave him to do and you might wonder “Well he hasn't died yet, how did he finish the work?” The work that he is referring to is the work as an apostle; we will see that there is another calling yet to come which entails his sacrificial work, but his work as the apostle to Israel was finished in John 17). Again we must manifest our gift and hard-working spirit through FAITHFULNESS and LABOUR. Not inconsistency and good intentions. Our calling is a royal one which is to help build God's house and we are to labour so that finally one day we can enter into God's rest during the millennium. For even God himself worked for 6 days until he was finished before he rested on the seventh day. He didn't work 3 days, rest 1 day and then work 3 more days. Much more to be said... but basically whatever gift God has given you in his church, it is not a gift to be hoarded and/or wasted (Mat 25) but it is to be worked with faithfully and relentlessly until God's church is finished!

4. High Priest - Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10; 2:17-18
 - a. Must have: honourable spirit ~ Heb 4:14; 5:5
 - b. Marked by: hopeful soul ~ Heb 6:18-20
 - c. Manifested in: enduring temptation ~ Heb 2:17-18; 4:15
 - d. Mission to:
 1. Offer acceptable gifts & sacrifices to God. ~ Heb 5:1
 2. Have compassion and mercy on others. ~ Heb 5:2
 3. Make intercession for the sinner. ~ Heb 5:7

Brief Overview: All of the callings are grand but this may be the most honourable of the callings and is truly the final of the 4. One can never fulfill the office of a priest until the other 3 have been and are being adhered to. A priest is an honourable calling. You are being asked to stand

between a Holy God and sinful man. You have the opportunity to hold off the righteous judgment of God as Moses did in Exodus 32. You have the opportunity to change God's stipulations of judgment as Abraham did in Genesis 18. Think about it. A priest has an ear with the Almighty Father that NO ONE else on the planet has. God will hearken to the priest (we will see not any kind of priest) and change his mind about destroying someone. What a privilege and a high calling where God would actually hearken to your voice and alter his will to accommodate your will because of how he delights in you. This is an amazing and wonderful calling and one that is not taught enough. However, notice a priest must have a hopeful soul. He must hope in God. He must hope in God's way and God's path so that when he is tempted to be drawn away by lust into sin he will NOT yield because his hope is in God. This aspect of the priesthood is paramount and critical to understand. If you will not endure temptation, if you yield your members to iniquity, if you give in to sin, you CANNOT be a priest. Maybe in the future after you repent and after time you can reassume the position as a priest but we must understand as Christians that every time we yield to sin we have taken away our ability to act as a priest of God on other sinners' behalf. Think about the story of Exodus 32. Aaron is supposed to be the high priest but he gets caught up in the sin with the people so guess what? Aaron cannot be the priest in this chapter. Guess who gets to be the priest? Moses. Why? Because Moses was not a partaker of the sin. One of the key aspects of being a priest is that you must be able to stand separate from the sinners. A priest is a third party. He is a mediator between two parties at enmity. How can we stand as mediators if we are partakers with the peoples sins? Many pastors need to hear and study and meditate upon this calling as a priest. However notice we do not endure temptations to condemn others; but we endure the temptations that we might have mercy upon others. That we might remember how ignorant we once were. And that we might have an ear with an angry Almighty holy God and ask him to just give them one more chance. Perhaps if he would just hold off the judgment for one more day. "I know they deserve your fury but be merciful Lord, remember I used to be just like them and look at me now because of your great name and power."

May God help us to know, understand and embrace all of these callings in his order and in his due time as he bestows them upon us. May we ever "Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" who perfectly fulfilled all of these callings with the proper balance of relationship to God, man, work, and the sinner!