

INSIDE OUT: God's Calling, Our surrender

God's Calling to Each of Our Lives (Isaiah 42:1-13)

Squandered Opportunity: (Wish you had One major do over? What??) Missed opportunity....
(Ask a girl to dance/her number? Chance to help s-one? To study extra for test? To say nice wrd?)

*Eric Liddell: *Chariots of fire*– God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel His pleasure. **What were you created for? Are you on that path to know? To fulfill it?**

"JESUS beckons HIS followers to a path that's far from the easy road. It's a path filled with adventure, uncertainty, and unlimited possibilities - the only path that can fulfill the deepest longings and desires of your heart... to give your heart to the only ONE who can make you fully alive. To unleash the untamed faith within. To be consumed by the presence of a passionate and compassionate GOD. To go where HE sends, no matter the cost." – Erwin Raphael McManus

What is God calling you to today? What is He saying to your heart? No missed Opportunity...

READ Isaiah 42: Vs. 10: Sing to the Lord a new song, *Sing His praise from the end of the earth!*

You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it; You islands, and those who live on them.

¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities raise *their voices*, The settlements which Kedar inhabits.

Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, Let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains.

¹² Let them give glory to the Lord And declare His praise in the coastlands.

Isaiah is proclaiming the future worship of a people (a non-Jewish people) in the islands and coastlands – a people redeemed and worshipping Jesus Christ! HOW did these people hear the good news? **Who sent them? What was their message? Did their lives match message? What were these messengers called to??**

Vs. 1: "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights.

I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out nor raise *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street.

³ A bent reed He will not break *off* And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;

He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not be disheartened or crushed

Until He has established justice on the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His

law." The Messiah came to establish Truth, Righteousness (Justice) & hope found ONLY in a saving faith relationship with God through the Name of Jesus Christ. He is also proclaiming that people in the island nations and other continents are "waiting expectantly" for His Word (law).

-Notice what God calls the reader (Jewish nation/Israel) to:

Vs. 5: This is what God the Lord says, Who created the heavens and stretched them out,

Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it

And spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ "I am the Lord, I have called **You** in righteousness,

I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint **You** as a covenant to the

people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon

And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. ⁸ I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give

My glory to another, Nor My praise to idols. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, **Now I**

declare new things; Before they sprout I proclaim *them* to you."

A. God Chose Israel from nowhere & nobody and made them a powerful nation under King David and Solomon.

B. God made them His Covenant People, and Him their Covenant God. = Relationship!!

C. God blessed them to be a blessing (Gen. 12:2) – Abram charged to follow, obey =to be a bless.

-Deut. 7:13-14 "He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the

increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples"

D. God charged them to use their blessing of His Presence, His provision, His power, and His purpose for them to be a light (of gospel hope) to the rest of the nations of the world!
-Is. 49:6 "I will also make you a light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

E. How did that turn out? How did Israel respond? Remember Jonah? (Rom. 11:11-29)
The problem was that the Jews became arrogant and self-righteous, despising all Gentiles as though they were Canaanites. They were eager to see all Gentiles perish, just as Jonah wanted the Ninevites destroyed. They opposed the extension of God's grace to unworthy Gentiles.

F. What did God do to redeem His calling and purpose for Israel? **He sent Jesus:**
Lk. 2:30-32 Simeon: "My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all nations, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel"
Gal. 3:13-14 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,' in order that *in* Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham (given to the Jews) might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Is. 9:1-2; Acts 13:44-49)

Lost Opportunities. Israel was blessed; they threw away their blessings & in turn, were taken out
-Rev. 2:5 Ephesus: "Therefore remember where you have fallen & repent, or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place" (their LIGHT, influence, force for gospel).

What has God already called you to? God has...

- 1) Called you from darkness to light/death to life through a rel. w/Jesus(1 John 3:14) – **Salvation**
- 2) Called you into fellowship with His Son (1 Cor. 1:9) - **Relationship**
- 3) Called you to be holy, set-apart for Him (1 Pet. 2:9) - **Sanctification**
- 4) Called you to repentance (Lk. 5:32; Acts 3:19; 2 Cor. 7:9; 1 John 1:9) - **Conviction**
- 5) Called you to Freedom and peace (1 Cor. 7:15; Gal. 5:1, 13) - **Spiritual Rest and Joy**
- 6) Called you to deny yourself, to be willing suffer for His glory & your spiritual growth (Lk. 9:23; 1 Pt. 2:21) - **Willful Surrender** of your life, your hopes, dreams, rights, comfort, & self
- 7) With unity, God Called you into ministry/service of the church (Eph. 4:1-16; 1 Pet. 4:10)
- **Kingdom Usefulness** = **Who loves the Lord more today b/c of YOU?** Loves the Church?

What is God calling you to now? "God's will for us is less about our comfort than it is about our contribution to His Kingdom for His glory."

-Are you going to be like Israel of OLD and squander the blessings and calling of God? Do you fear the world more than God, fear what your life would like to be wholly sold out to God?

"When we fear God and God only, we are no longer bound by all of the other fears that would hold us captive. The fear of death, the fear of failure, the fear of rejection, the fear of insignificance — all of the fears that we know by name and haunt us in the dark of the night become powerless when we know the fear of the Lord." Erwin McManus

-Have you embraced God's calling for your life? **To Love Him first, most?** To live for Him?
-Have you embraced your calling to love others as self? To disciple s-one into sp. life?

"The center of God's will is not a safe place, but the most dangerous place in the world. God fears nothing and no one. To live outside God's will puts us in danger; to live in his will makes us dangerous."