
MISSION AND MEANING

Considering God's call on our life.

Lesson 3: Depths of Longing and Depression

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EVER HAD THE BLUES?

“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; [2] before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, [3] in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, [4] and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—[5] they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—[6] before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, [7] and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. [8] Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity. “(Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 ESV)

GOD CALLED ME- WHAT'S WRONG?

In reading the Bible, if we aren't careful, we lose track of time

Responding to God's call or 'being in the center of His will'
does not mean a life free of anxiety or depression

THE HAUNTING QUESTION- CH 3

The notion of calling is VITAL to each of us because it touches on

the modern search for a basis for individual identity

and

an understanding of humanness itself.

THE IDENTITY CRISIS- “Birthplace of the Blues?”

Who am I?

‘Constrained to be’– the lot we find ourselves in- prisoners of a path

‘Courage to be’– the energy to break out and dare to be different

‘Constituted to be’– finding our identity in context of experience, passion, and skill

‘CALLED TO BE’– the relationship of love that moves us with purpose and not a product of chance and whim

“It is important for us **to make a distinction** between the spiritual fruit of joy and the cultural concept of happiness. A Christian can have joy in his heart while there is still spiritual depression in his head. The joy that we have sustains us through these dark nights and is not quenched by spiritual depression. The joy of the Christian is one that **survives all downturns in life.**”

—R.C. Sproul

LONGINGS

C.S. Lewis says it is in our stories.... a 'desire for a far off country' the scent of a flower we have not found... the echo of a tune we have not heard..news from a country we have yet to visit''

A NORMAL COURSE?

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies” (2 Cor. 4:7-10).

QUESTIONS

HOW CAN DEPRESSION BE LINKED TO AN IDENTITY CRISIS?

WHAT ARE SOME '**CONSTRAINED TO BE**' EXAMPLES?

WHAT ARE SOME '**COURAGE TO BE**' SLOGANS- ARE THEY SHALLOW?

IS '**CONSTITUTED TO BE**' THE SAME AS **S.H.A.P.E.**?

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE OF '**CALLED TO BE**'?

NEXT WEEK- NEXT STEPS

Next week: A Call and The Call

Reading should be through Ch 4

Future Lessons:

The Unexpected Call

A Call to Change

The Call to Community

Four “C’s” - The Tension of the Call

Being Misunderstood

For Such a Time as This
