

Menifee United Church of Christ

Established in 1962 by God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit

SERMON FOR

January 25, 2015

“Jesus Is Calling You”



Reverend Bill Freeman: Senior Minister
Eckart Seeber: Music Minister
Marie Paulus-Nyquist: Children's Minister
Eleanor Sorenson: Lay Reader

Menifee United Church of Christ

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 AM

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Live Life Fully Alive!

Psalm 62:6-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Mark 1:16-20

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

“Jesus Is Calling You”

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter calls on the man when he’s in heaven. St. Peter asks the man, “What is God’s name?” The man quickly replies, “Oh, that’s easy. God’s name is Andy.” St. Peter is taken aback. “How do you know God’s name is Andy?” The man says, “Well, in my church, when I was on earth, we sang about the God Andy all the time.” St. Peter says, “You sang about the God Andy?” The man says, “Yes. ‘Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.’”

Jesus is calling you. That's what I want to talk with you about today. Jesus is calling you. The big question is: What is Jesus calling you to do? Is Jesus calling you to love your neighbor? Is Jesus calling you to love your enemies? Is Jesus calling you to love yourself? Is Jesus calling you to forgive your enemies? Is Jesus calling you to forgive your parents? Is Jesus calling you to forgive yourself? Is Jesus calling you to take a chance on a new job? Is Jesus calling you to take a chance on a business opportunity? Is Jesus calling you to take a chance on love? Jesus is calling you. What is Jesus calling you to do in your life? What is Jesus calling you to do with your life? What is Jesus calling you to do for your life?

Bernard Lafayette was a protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hours before Dr. King was assassinated, he told Bernard Lafayette that the next step was to institutionalize and internationalize non-violence. According to a story the other night on the CBS Evening News, Bernard Lafayette is now the chair of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the group that Dr. King once led. And he teaches at Emory University in Atlanta. He has spread the gospel of non-violence around the world. Dr. King was calling Bernard Lafayette to institutionalize and internationalize non-violence. And Bernard Lafayette answered the call.

But who called Dr. King to non-violence? Dr. King has said it was Mahatma Gandhi. And Jesus. Jesus was calling Dr. King to non-violence. And Jesus is calling you. The question is: What is Jesus calling you to do? Is Jesus calling you to work for non-violence? Is Jesus calling you to work for justice? Is Jesus calling you to work for world peace?

Jesus was walking along the banks of the Sea of Galilee. He saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing. They were fishermen. Jesus called them. "Hey guys, follow me and I will make you

fishers of men!” (And women!) Jesus called Simon and Andrew and they immediately dropped their nets and followed him. James and John did the same thing. Jesus was calling them and they immediately left their nets and their father Zebedee and followed Jesus. Then eventually Jesus called the rest of his disciples and they went and preached the Good News to people: The Kingdom of Heaven has come near. You know, if Jesus began his ministry in Menifee, he would probably call a couple guys on the golf course. “Follow me.” And they would leave their golf cart and their golf bags and they would follow Jesus.

Would you do that? If you were fishing and Jesus called you to follow him, would you drop your nets and follow him? Of course you would, because he’s Jesus. But what if you are driving on the 215 and Jesus is calling you to let the car in that is trying to merge into traffic, would you answer Jesus’ call? What if you are arguing with your spouse and Jesus is calling you to concede the argument, would you answer Jesus’ call? What if you are a doctor and Jesus is calling you to become a poet, would you answer Jesus’ call? What if you are walking past a homeless person and Jesus is calling you to give the homeless person some money, would you answer Jesus’ call? What if you see victims of injustice marching in protest and Jesus is calling you to march with the victims of injustice, would you answer Jesus’ call? What if you are a millionaire and Jesus is calling you to sell all that you have, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow Jesus, would you answer Jesus’ call?

God may be calling you, too. The Psalmist tells us that our hope is in God. The Psalmist tells us that God is our rock. The Psalmist tells us to trust in God at all times. Is God calling you, the same way Jesus is calling you? Is God calling you to volunteer at our Saturday breakfast? Is God calling you to donate items for our Pastor’s Pantry and Clothing Closet? Is God calling you to volunteer for our Vacation Bible School this

summer?

The Holy Trinity, as I understand it, means that if you hear a Divine call upon your life, it could be Jesus calling you, it could be God calling you, or it could be The Holy Spirit calling you. It's the same Divine call, no matter which one of The Holy Trinity is calling you. Maybe all three are calling you. If you'd like, you can think of that as a Divine Conference Call. All I know, all I believe, and maybe you do, too, is that the call is coming from on high.

I first heard Jesus calling me to become a minister, when I was just a kid. I set up chairs in my basement and invited my siblings and the neighborhood kids to come listen to me give a sermon. God knows what I preached. But I didn't answer Jesus' call then. Did you feel Jesus calling you as a child? I next heard Jesus calling me to become a minister when I was in high school. I was reading Norman Vincent Peale's book, "The Power of Positive Thinking." But I didn't answer Jesus' call then either. Do you feel Jesus calling you through books? I next heard Jesus calling me to become a minister when I was about 35. I was sitting in church, listening to my minister talk about his life in ministry. But I didn't answer Jesus' call then either. Do you sometimes hear Jesus calling you in church? I next heard Jesus calling me to become a minister on my 47th birthday. It was 9/11/2001. Then, finally, I answered Jesus' call. I'm not proud that it took me as long as it did. After all, Moses answered a divine call to become a clergy person after seeing a burning bush. For me it took two burning towers. Has Jesus' calling drastically changed your life?

Jesus is calling you. What do you do? What is Jesus calling you to do? Only you can answer that. When you figure out what Jesus is calling you to do, that is your calling. Perhaps that is your calling only for the next stage of your life. Or maybe that is

your calling for the rest of your life. Until Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit call you home, to heaven above.

Let us pray...

*God of Love,
Help us to listen for your call.
Help us to listen for Jesus' call.
And help us to listen for The Holy Spirit's call.
Now and forevermore.
By the power of the Holy Spirit.
And in the name of Jesus.
Amen.*



*Meniffee
United Church of Christ*



*Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on life's journey
You are welcome here!*

*Jesus didn't reject people
Neither do we*



THE GOLDEN RULE

*What is hateful to you
do not do to others.*
Judaism

*Do to others what you would
have them do to you.*
Christianity

*None of you believes until he wishes for his
brother what he wishes for himself.*
Islam

*Do not do to others
what would cause pain if done to you.*
Hinduism

*Hurt not others in ways that you yourself
would find hurtful.*
Buddism

*Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain,
and your neighbor's loss as your loss.*
Taoism

*Do not do to others
what you do not want them to do to you.*
Confucianism

*Treat other people
as you'd want to be treated in their situation.*
Humanism