

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 13:1-23; Ezekiel 37:1-14*

SERMON: *God is Calling You!*

11 October 2009

INTRODUCTION: ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE (chps of *Westminster Confession*)

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. CALL INTO BEING** (creation; Rom.4:17; Gen.1:3f; 3:9)
- B. CALL BY NAME** (covenant relationship; Ex.6:7; Is.43:1; Hos.11:1; Jn.10:3; 1Cor.1:9; 1Jn.3:1)
- C. CALL TO WORK** (vocation; Ex.31:2; see 1Cor.1:2; 1Pt.1:15)
- D. FOCUS: CALL TO SALVATION** (Lk.5:32 / 1Cor.1:2,9,24)

II. THE CALL OF GOD TO MAN

- A. THE GENERAL OUTWARD CALL TO WORSHIP** (Ps.19:1f; see Rom.1:19f)
- B. SILENCED BY SIN** (Rom.1:18f; see Ps.95:7f)
- C. THE SPECIAL OUTWARD CALL TO SALVATION** (Mk.1:15; 2:17; Rom.10:17; 1Cor.1:17f; 2Tm.3:14f)
- D. DEAF IN SIN** (Mt.13:15,19f/23; 22:1f,14(7:21); see Is.28:12; Rom.11:8; Eph.2:1f; 1Cor.1:18f)
- E. THE GIFT OF EARS TO HEAR THE CALL** (Is.29:18; Mt.11:5; 13:11,16; Jn.5:24,25; Acts 16:14; 1Cor.1:2,9,24; 2Th.2:13,14; 2Tm.1:9; see Rom.11:29)

III. GOD IS CALLING YOU!

- A. YOU HEAR THE CREATOR'S VOICE! LISTEN & WORSHIP HIM!** (Ps.19:1f; Rom.1:19,20; Ps.100:1f; 146:6f)
- B. YOU HEAR THE CREATOR'S VOICE! DO NOT TURN HIM OFF!** (Rom.1:18f; Ps.95:7f(Heb.3:7f); see Is.65:12; Jer.7:13)
- C. IF YOU HEAR THE SAVIOR'S VOICE, THANK GOD FOR YOUR EARS!** (Mt.13:11,16; 22:14; Jn.10:26,27(6:44; 1Cor.12:13); see Is.50:5; Rom.8:28,30; Eph.2:1-10)
- D. IF YOU HEAR THE SAVIOR'S VOICE, LISTEN & FOLLOW HIM!** (Jn.10:27(3,8,16); see Mk.1:15,20; 1Cor.1:2,9; 7:15; Eph.4:1f; Phil.3:14; Col.3:15; 1Th.2:12; 4:7,8; 1Tm.6:12; 1Pt.1:15; 2:21; 5:10)
- E. IF YOU DON'T HEAR THE SAVIOR'S VOICE, ASK FOR EARS TO HEAR!** (Lk.11:13; Acts 16:14; pray for others also)
- F. IF YOU HEAR THE SAVIOR'S VOICE, CONFIDENTLY ECHO HIM THAT OTHERS WOULD HEAR HIM ALSO!** (Mt.28:18-20 w/Jn.10:16,27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What are the definitions of "calling" in the Bible? How are these similar? How are they distinct? What is the primary reference of calling in the Bible? (i.e., called to what?)
7. What is the general calling of God to man? What are the responses to this call?
8. What is the special calling of God to man? What are the responses to this call?
 - a. Why do some respond and others not?
 - b. To whom does the credit belong for those who respond rightly? (Mt.13:11,17; see Jn.6:44)
 - c. To whom does the blame belong for those who do not? (Mt.13:15; see Jn.3:18; Rom.9:14f)
9. What call does everyone hear? What should be the response? What is the consequence of not responding rightly?
10. What two things should you *do* if you hear the Savior's voice?
11. What should you do if you *don't* hear the Savior's voice?
12. What confidence does God give you in giving voice to the Gospel to others?

FURTHER: Discuss the *Larger Catechism* & consider memorizing the *Shorter Catechism* on "Effectual Calling".

Larger Catechism - Q. 67. *What is effectual calling?* A. Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein. John 5:25; Eph. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; Eph. 2:4-5, 7-9; Rom. 9:11; 2Cor. 5:20, 2 Cor. 6:1-2; John 6:44; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12; Ezek. 11:19; Ezek. 36:26-27; John 6:45; Eph. 2:5; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 30:6.

Shorter Catechism - Q. 3c1. *What is effectual calling?* A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel. 2 Tim. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 2:37; Acts 26:18; Ezek. 36:26-27; John 6: 44-45; Phil. 2:13.

To talk with someone about hearing the voice of God, contact The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Oswego at 315-343-7112 or oswegorpc@hotmail.com