

The Life Wheel: Living a Life in Balance - Vocation

Scripture Notes / Sermon Outline:

1. The universal calling for all human beings to be in relationship with God:
 - a. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (Jn. 3:16)
 - b. "...God... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1Tim. 2:3-4)
 - c. The Lord does not wish "for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2Pe. 3:9)
2. Your primary calling is to be in relationship with Jesus... to be counted among the saints
 - a. Rom. 1:6-7
 - b. Rom. 8:28
 - c. 1Cor. 1:2
 - d. Eph. 4:1
 - e. 1Thess. 2:12
 - f. 2Thess. 1:11 & 2:14
 - g. 1Pe. 2:9 & 5:10
 - h. 2Pe. 1:3 & 1:10
 - i. Rev. 17:14
3. You are called to become like Jesus... to be holy... to be sanctified.
 - a. 1Cor. 1:2
 - b. 1Thess. 4:7 & 5:23-24
 - c. 2Tim. 1:9
 - d. 1Pe. 1:15
 - e. 2Pe. 1:3 & 1:10
4. Other things the Bible specifically links to "calling" (bonus material not in sermon)
 - a. Freedom (Gal. 5:13)
 - b. Hope (Eph. 4:4)
 - c. The peace of Christ (Col. 3:15)
 - d. Eternal Life (1Tim. 6:12)
 - e. Suffering (1Pe. 2:21)
 - f. To bless others—even those who mistreat you (1Pe. 3:9)
5. Vocation can be a particular call of God to a specific ministry
 - a. Paul "called to be an apostle" (Rom. 1:1, 1Cor. 1:1)
 - b. The Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas & Saul..." (Acts. 13:2)
6. For most of us, vocation comes from our unique mix of personality, gifts, abilities & passions
 - a. "Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to them, and to which God has called them." (1Cor. 7:17)
 - b. Context of this verse is Paul answering the Corinthians' questions. He essentially said, "Don't feel pressure to be who you aren't; bloom where you're planted!"
7. Spiritual Gifts
 - a. "given for the common good" (1Cor. 12:7)
 - b. "apportioned to each one individually as the Spirit wills." (1Cor. 12:11)

8. Vocation and Career are not always the same thing. It's great when they are but it doesn't always work that way. The apostle Paul fit this category. He supported himself as a tentmaker and did his "ministry" in his off-hours.
9. Vocation can change at different periods of life
 - a. Child rearing
 - b. One particular relationship
 - c. One particular "season"
 - d. One particular task
 - e. Retirees: "I don't know how I ever had time to work!"
10. You may well be doing what God has called you to do but wishing you could do something else. That's being faithful!
11. Or maybe you're like Jonah. You know what God wants you to do—but you're running the other way.
12. Do you know what you're on this earth to do? Do you have a sense of God's purpose for you at this particular stage of life? That's your vocation.