



Do Not Ignore This Call

It's dinner time, you are all seated around the table, the food is being served and just as you are ready to take the first mouthwatering bite of food, the phone rings. You put down your fork to answer the call and like many times before, silence. The line is dead, no one is on the other end. Or, on the flip side you are hit with a long verbal stream of words that leaves everyone around the table curious about what is being said. Either way, you hang up and continue with the task at hand.

Jude's short letter in the New Testament was addressed "To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ." If you investigate the Greek word "klētos" translated as "called", you get a better understanding of its purpose in the text. "Klētos" implies a meaning of relationship and/or task. In Romans 1:1 Paul introduces himself as "a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God." In Matthew chapter 22:14 the word is also used as an invitation into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

So, if Paul, who identifies as a servant of Jesus Christ and Jude who follows suit, have been "called" (like the recipients of the letters they have written), who is doing the calling? And what is the "call" all about?

God is the one who is calling!

Why? Since the fall of man, when sin became entangled in the fabric of human life, (causing separation between God and man) God has been calling his children back into a right relationship with him.

What is this call all about and what does this have to do with us today? The pinnacle of the creation story comes when God masterfully created and walked with and talked with man and woman. Unfortunately, their perfect relationship was severed by sin and shame. God, in his infinite love for humankind offered up a way for us to be in relationship with him. Through the death and resurrection of his Son Jesus on the cross we experience his incredible grace, mercy, forgiveness and promise of eternal life in relationship with him again.

The message of the Gospel continues to be the "script" of the call that God has for all his people. "klētos" is a call to relationship, this bond we have with our Father in heaven is also a call to action or task. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we become image bearers of who he is. We become agents (disciples) of Jesus with the task of speaking the good news of the gospel to others.

Jude accepted and understood God's call in his life in a much different time than we live today. The message of the gospel is timeless. The call from God to his people (then and now) is the exact same. There is no time and place that I could imagine where God will not be on the other end of that call. He is always present, waiting and listening to begin a new and beautiful relationship with anyone who answers.

Many have answered the call from God, finding peace and promise in his message. Some have "hung up" on the caller and chosen to ignore this life-giving news. Others, for many reasons have not even received the call yet. It is our job as the "called" to be the extension for the "divine operator". Who is your next call going to be to?