

When God Calls

By Henry Falcone

When God calls will you say, "here I am, Lord send me?" So often when the true call of God comes, it comes at the least opportune time. The Lord often calls us when we have work to do, families to take care of, a house to take care of, or whatever we believe is important to do.

Why does He sometimes do that? For one thing, He comes at these times to "test us"? He tested Abraham after He had fulfilled His promise in giving them Isaac. He said, "take the son, the son that you love and offer him as a sacrifice to me on the Mountain." Suddenly, Abraham was undone by just a few sentences.

Everything He hoped for and everything that made his life meaningful was now to be given up to God as a sacrifice to see if Abraham would love Him above all these things? Of course, we know the answer today? Abraham had to choose God over the person he loved so dearly. A choice that could potentially rip the promise of God from him forever. I can't even imagine the agony of this test in his heart.

On the third day, Abraham reached the altar of sacrifice. There somehow he got the revelation that if God wanted him to kill Isaac as an offering, God must have a way he couldn't see of fulfilling His promise to him. The word of God says in Hebrews that Abraham reconciled that God must be ABLE TO RAISE THE DEAD! If God was to keep his promise to Abraham there could be no other way, if he took the life of his son. That is faith!

The thought of sacrificing Isaac alone was not enough for God. God wanted more from Abraham. He wanted Abraham's complete devotion and love for God above every other love. Isaac had grown a place in Abraham's heart that would have or could have been greater than the love Abraham should have for God.

In an act of obedience, Abraham picked up the knife and was about to kill Isaac in obedience to God. Then, God sends an angel, "Abraham put down that knife, now I know you love me above all these other things."

If God called you to be a missionary could you go? If God were to tell you to give \$10,000 into a work of God, would you be willing? If God told you to sell all you had to give to the poor could You? God will always provide the grace to do what He is calling us to do, if we are willing to obey.

In Luke chapter 14, the Lord sends out an invitation to everyone, "Behold all things are now ready." The Master sends out his servant to the invited ones to tell them the day and time of the wedding has come. All things are now ready.

The servant goes to the invited guest and ask them if they will come, but each one makes an excuse. One by one they say, I have a house, I have a job, or I have a family. These are three most important issues of life and Jesus in this story shows the price of the call for them. We can choose NOW before time whether to go or not when He calls.

Would we be like Abraham and leave everything, our jobs, our homes, our families behind, if necessary and answer when He calls? Yet God often requires that of us. Abraham not

only had to leave his home in the Ur of Chaldees he also had to offer His son as a sacrifice. He had to prove that he was willing go through with it before the Lord would say, put down your knife now I know you love me above all these things.

Beloved we can either make excuses to answer the call on our life or we can instantly obey and say, "Here I am Lord, send me." Beloved, don't be a sell out by saying I can't come now Lord, I have a wife, and may I come later? I have a job now? I have a family, I will come later. These excuses angered the owner of the house? He told his servant to go into the highways and byways and compel them to come until the house is full. He said, "never will those I have invited that did not come enter into my supper."

Today that call of God is going forth to many. The call to come out of the 2nd day church system age into the kingdom of God age. The upward call of the Holy Spirit to set them apart as vessels of honor in the family of God. The call to come from the Daughters of Jerusalem to being a bride. The call to continue the process of maturity to become full grown sons. When you hear the call, what will you do?

Will you make excuses as the invited ones did, or will you be the one that will come just as you are and say, "here I am, Lord, send me." Will you be one like Peter, James and John, who quickly obeyed "straightway, they dropped their nets, and they followed Jesus wherever He led? I pray that will be all of us."

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