

## Devotion

Scripture: Luke 18:31,34

Oswald Chambers – August 5

“Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. (34) The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.”

Chambers explains this by saying “There comes the baffling call of God in our lives also. The call of God can never be stated explicitly, it is implicit. The call of God is like the call of the sea, no one hears it but the one who has the nature of the sea in him. It cannot be stated definitely what the call of God is to, because His call is to be in comradeship with Himself for His own purposes, and the test is to believe that God knows what He is after. The things that happen do not happen by chance, they happen entirely in the decree of God. God is working out His purposes.

Have you ever noticed that when God calls He never says “Honey, what would you like to do next?”

He is more likely to say (Gen. 12:1) “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”

OR – He may say (Jonah 1:2) “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

OR – He may have a friend ask you to serve as Moderator of the PW for a Presbytery or the Synod. And you may think ‘God didn’t tell me this directly, I wonder what He really thinks about it.’ So you ask Him – should I or shouldn’t I? Then a young man walks before you and across the back of his shirt it says “Step out of the Boat”. And you know that you know that you know, God just answered your question and He is telling you to “go for it and I will be right there with you”. That doesn’t mean that we will never misunderstand His direction or move out in more zeal than prayer. It does mean that He will be there – directing, leading, picking you up when you fall, dusting you off and putting you right back on the track.

His directions are not for His ego or for our ego. But if we follow directions we can be sure that it will be good and that others will receive a blessing by our obedience – because God said so.

Joyce Meyers tells a story that she had a favorite dress and a friend was always around admiring that dress. One day Joyce thought that she would just give the dress to her friend. But on her way to deliver, she had another thought – it was her favorite dress and God didn't tell her to give the dress away, so maybe she would just keep it. She didn't want to make God angry. Then God spoke to her and said "Joyce, I will never get mad at you for doing something good".

As Abraham moved out by faith, he obeyed and went even though he didn't know where he was going. By that same faith, we are all called to obey, even if it is something we can't do, as a matter of fact – especially if it is something that we can't do. God can only work in us if we obey.

I know many of you are studying Joshua now, you may recall the Scripture where the Reubenites, the Gadites and half of the tribe of Manasseh told Moses they wanted to stay on the east side of the Jordan, it looked good to them. Moses got a little teed off, and said you want to stay here where it is good and you are comfortable but your brothers will have to fight for the land of Canaan. They said that they would leave their wives, children and cattle there and go help their brothers win their land and then come back and settle in east of the Jordan. Moses wasn't happy but he said OK. They did. They settled for what was good and comfortable, but failed to receive what was best – the land of milk and honey. Something that we all need to watch out for – settling.

A lady by the name of Helen Mallicoat writes:

I was regretting the past and fearing the future and suddenly my Lord was speaking:

"My name is I AM. He paused – I waited.

He continued: When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is Hard. I am not there. My name is not "I was".

When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not "I will be."

When you live in this moment, it is NOT hard. I am here. My name is I AM.