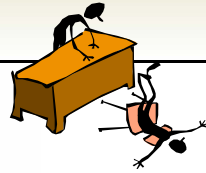


“Your Calling”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Have you ever been at work or in a class and when the person in charge informed you of the next project you were to do you were shocked and thought “how on earth are we going to accomplish that!?”

Likewise, when our Heavenly Father has shown you some things that he wants you to do have you again exclaimed “how on earth are we going to accomplish that!?”

Consider this: the Lord has ordained you to do great and even awesome things. His purpose in this is to show his glory through you.

“Me?” you may think, “But I’m just an ordinary person. How can I do something as extraordinary as what He’s told me he wants me to do?” Well, think of Joseph, David, Peter, Paul, and Esther. Our Heavenly Father called each of these to things that were way outside of the norm for anyone let alone people in their positions in life.

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of

all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will

Notes:
[a]

arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ . . . I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish. ¹⁷ Esther 4:12-16 (NIV)
Emphasis Added

Esther did what she was called by God to do and God entered into the situation and delivered his people and brought great glory to himself. The same is true of you. Take courage, step out in faith, and do what God has instructed you to do—do your calling. Watch then and you will see God move mightily through you and the outcome will be beyond anything you could imagine.

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The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Choose Life” (Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NIV)



The idea of choosing life must seem obvious to most people. We hear people tell others to “choose life” in regard to not aborting a baby. People often do not realize they can be aborting their own life—at least eternal life by the choices they make. Many who would never consider having an abortion due to the baby growing inside of their body would, however, choose to abort their own life during this current life which is preparing them for a life with God throughout eternity.

Notes:

[a]

God And Israel

When God spoke to Israel in our scripture he was commanding and instructing them about how they were to keep his will in their daily affairs. The keeping of his law would bring them “life and good” or prosperity. God placed before Israel something to be desired or avoided—even rejected. The not keeping of his commandments and instruction would bring them what was to be avoided, “death and de-

struction—evil.” God promised the Children of Israel they would have life if they chose it by keeping the law. The result of keeping the law would be blessing rather than curses.

The law then was not only instructive, but the only measure of behavior by which a person could be in right-standing with God.

John, in his Gospel Chapter 10:10, records Jesus as saying, “**The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**”

Now Choose Life!

When we read in our scripture in verse 19b & 20, “Now choose life, so that you and

9-27

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹¹ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD

Notes: your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

[a]

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ This day I (Continued >>>)

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (Offerings are placed in the basket at this time)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Choose Life" (Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NIV)



(Continued from Previous Page) call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

We see how God related to his chosen people. The covenant was with Israel, not with all mankind, just the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Choosing Life In Jesus

Many people miss the distinction between the Old Covenant (Testament) and the New Covenant (Testament) with Jesus the Christ having fulfilled the Old Covenant and the new covenant being established through him. Under the old plan man did it all for himself as a part of a chosen people in the law. Under the new, Jesus took the old burden away by fulfilling the

old and opening the New Covenant up to all people! Jesus therefore became the passage way (door) to right-standing with God and not our behavior. We no longer of necessity due to our short comings (sins) had to wallow in shame and guilt for our behaviors because Jesus, himself being God, paid for and took on our shame. No one need stand over a believer in Jesus Christ with a whip because Jesus let others stand over him with a whip on our behalf!

Abundant Life Has No Shame

Abundant life has no shame but has the joy of fulfillment, the fulfillment of Christ! We must not look at our falling short any longer than to repent of it and move on in the power given us through Jesus Christ.

When we choose life in Christ we are not only God's chosen, or God's servants, we are friends of God!