

Sermon Title: God's Invitation leads to a crisis of belief

My Story:

- October 11, 2003 was the date that I received a calling from God to go into full time ministry
- God spoke to me very clearly and said that he had bigger plans for my life, and that I needed to stop my rebellious foolish worldly ways, and start to live my life following Jesus' way.
- That calling lead to what Henry Blackaby calls a crisis of belief.
- How did I respond to my calling? I both failed and succeeded.
- I took a long time to get up and go to seminary, and when I did I started out commuting and going part time.
- When I started to trust God, I couldn't afford to live on campus and go full time by myself.
- Little did I know God was providing a way for me to live on campus and go full time through my parents.

Other Stories:

- A. God tells Moses to camp the Israelites by the Red Sea
Conclusion: Exodus 14:31 - *And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.*
- B. God told Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River at flood stage.
Conclusion: Joshua 4:23-24 - *For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.*
- C. God spoke to King Jehoshaphat when a large army was coming at Israel
Conclusion: 2 Chronicles 20:29 - *The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.*
- D. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace
Conclusion: Daniel 3:28-29 – *King Nebuchadnezzar said "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the*

king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.

The conclusion every time was that people experienced God's love, His power, His provision, and His mercy in a very real way.

Isaiah 6:1-8

We have another crisis of belief, but not meaning losing a loved one or rethinking what you believe.

The word crisis comes from a Greek word that means decision.

Practical observations from Isaiah 6:1-8

- Callings are memorable
- God is bigger and holier than we can ever imagine
- When God invites you to work along with Him, you will see how much you don't measure up alone
- To get us right with God will involve a little bit of pain
- Once we are cleansed, prepared, and ready we can answer God's call without fear.

Challenge: From Experiencing God pg 216

"Our world is not attracted to Christ because we don't allow them to see Him at work. They don't hesitate to attack the Christian position on morality because they have no fear of the God we serve. They see us doing good things for God and say 'that's fine, but that's not my thing.' The world passes us by, not wanting to become involved because they are merely seeing *people* at work, not God. Let the world see God at work, and He will attract them. Let Christ be lifted up – not in words, but in life. Let them see the difference the living Christ makes in a life, a family, or a church, and this will affect how they respond. When the world sees things happening through God's people that cannot be explained except that God Himself has done them, then people will be drawn to God."

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