

## Here I Am, Send Someone Else

Jeremiah 1:4-9

Today we continue our series called “Water Walkers.” This series was inspired by the book, “If You Want to Walk on Water You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat” by John Ortberg. Last Sunday we talked about the boats we all use to keep us safe or comfortable or secure. We looked at what it might mean in each of our lives to “get out of the boat.”

Today we take the next step. Once you find yourself among the waves, where are you going? Why are you in the middle of the storm anyway? You can go any direction. Which way will you go?

Somewhere along the way we seem to have sentimentalized how the call of God impacted the people from the Bible. We hear the stories about great biblical leaders and we wonder why we don’t have the same faith that they did. The surprising answer might be that in fact you do have the same faith they did. God said, “Go.” Jeremiah said, “I’m too young.” Moses said, “I’m too old.” Paul said, “They will kill me.” Peter said, “I’m getting wet.” God’s message to each of them, “Don’t be afraid. Step out of the boat and keep your eyes on me.”

We’re on a mission from God. Unlike Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi, the mission God calls us to is not a con job. It is not a mission to make others believe or think or be exactly like us. It is a faith mission – a mission to learn how to be more authentic in our walk with God and discover things about ourselves we didn’t already know. It is not a “certainty” mission.

But like all those folks in the Bible, when the actual call of God comes, we find ourselves conflicted. “Yes, send me.” “Wait a minute. Am I really the right person? Do I have the right gifts? Wouldn’t someone else do it better? How do I know it is really God calling me out into the waves?” Here I am God... shouldn’t you really be sending someone else?

Here is the truth that each of us must take to heart. Each of us is gifted. Each of us is called. Each of us is unique. Discerning how God's grace can use your life is what your journey of faith reveals. What God can do through you is uniquely yours. Others can do it differently. No one can do it better.

The other question that seems to haunt us is, "How do I know when it is really God?" People tell me that they are not delusional but they sense God urging them forward at times. How do we know when it is God and when it is our own desires or worse our worst desires?

My first answer to you is this: There are no absolutes when it comes to discerning the call of God upon your life. That's what it means to walk by faith. If you had absolute certainty, you wouldn't need faith. If you had all the answers, you wouldn't need to trust grace to guide you. But having said that, there are some guides to help us through the waves. The first is a true willingness to be used by God. In our scripture passage, the young Jeremiah was ready. Here I am, God. Send me. Use me. Help me. That initial willingness was all grace needed. The accompanying fear didn't prevent grace. "But I'm so young... I'm too set in my ways... I'm not smart enough..." That was all fear. When Jeremiah looked for God's presence, his willingness helped steer him. When his fears encroached on his consciousness, he lost his way.

We saw the same experience last week with Peter getting out of the boat. As long as he kept his eye on Jesus, he was fine. When he became distracted by the waves, he began to sink. If you're not sure which direction you are being called when you step out of the boat, simply keep your eye on Jesus. If you are being drawn to something noble, holy, self-giving, loving, graceful, then you can trust that is the voice of God. If you wonder how it will make you look, will I get something out of this, will it improve my status, are my intentions less than sincere, then you know your eye is not on Jesus.

We all learn to become Water Walkers differently. Our calling will take us to different places in our journey.

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Sources:

[www.homileticsonline.com](http://www.homileticsonline.com) Did You Mean? January 2010.