

## **“Double Calls”**

### **Various Scriptures**

Jesus had a way of getting the attention of the people he was teaching. He would begin by saying, “I tell you the truth” or “truly I say unto you” or something in that order. He was about to say something important and he wanted to be sure the people were listening closely. What about the times when God or Jesus calls a person by their name, ‘twice’? Apparently, the person called needs to give undivided attention to what will be said to them. There are a number of instances in the scripture of these double calls.

**Abraham, Abraham** – This call had to do with the deliverance of Abraham’s son Isaac. (Genesis 22: 11 – 12). Abraham was about to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering to God, “but the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, Abraham, Abraham! Do not lay a hand on the boy, he said. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Abraham’s faithful obedience was rewarded and counted to him as righteousness.

**Jacob, Jacob** – This was a call of blessing upon Jacob’s late life. (Genesis 46: 2 – 4). “And God spoke to Israel (Jacob’s other name) in a vision at night and said. Jacob! Jacob! Here I am he replied. I am God, the God of your father, he said. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph’s own hand will close your eyes.” Jacob need have no fear, God is going to be with him and will carry out the covenant he made with Abraham and Isaac and now to Jacob.

**Moses, Moses** – A call to reverence. (Exodus 3: 4 – 5). Moses saw a bush that was on fire but not being consumed, so he went to get a closer look. When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, Moses, Moses! And Moses said, Here I am. Do not come any closer, God said, take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground”. Moses had spent the last forty years herding sheep and goats on the back side of the desert and now God has a great undertaking for him, but first Moses must know who is talking to him. There must be a very deep reverence for God if a person is to have a real and meaningful relationship with him in order to carry out the work God gives to his people.

**Samuel, Samuel – A call to service. (1 Samuel 3:10). “The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, Samuel! Samuel! Then Samuel said, speak, for your servant is listening.” Samuel was just a boy living in the Lord’s house since his mother kept her promise to God as she had prayed if God would give her a son, she would give him back all the days of his life. Samuel’s service would begin with a message to a man, Eli, the priest and then as he grew to adulthood he would bring God’s messages to the people of Israel.**

**Martha, Martha – A call of reproof. (Luke 10: 41). “the Lord answered, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Martha was preparing a meal for her guests and her sister Mary was sitting listening to Jesus teach and Martha wanted her to help with the work. Nothing basically wrong with preparing a meal but Martha was concerned about the wrong things. Often the good takes the place of the best and blessings are missed.**

**Jerusalem, Jerusalem – A call of compassionate reproach. (Matthew 23: 37). “you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks, but you were not willing.” Over and over in various ways Jesus had called his people to himself but they rejected him. However, there would come a time when all people will acknowledge him as Lord of Lords.**

**Simon, Simon – A call of warning. (Luke 22: 31). “Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.” Simon was very outspoken, but he would find himself in the grip of Satan and experience the cunning power of Satan and the frailty of man but, Jesus was not done with this call as he said in (vs. 32), “But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Simon did deny Jesus, but he repented and Jesus gave him a future work to do.**

**Saul, Saul – A call to conviction and conversion. Saul was traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians and suddenly he was struck down by a light from heaven. (Acts 9: 4), “he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (vs.5), “Who are you Lord, Saul asked. I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, he replied.” This was a call that led to submission and preparation for service that spread the gospel worldwide.**

Someone might say; God hasn't called me, maybe not audibly as we would think of these from the scriptures, but are you sure he hasn't been calling through his word, your thoughts, or friends? Does he have your attention?

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