

EQUIP4:12

RESOURCES FOR SERVANTS

Called to Go

CALLING OUT THE CALLED

Joshua 1:1-18

Introduction

What is the most bizarre excuse you have had people share with you about calling out of work? I want you to write down that idea or send it to me in a text message.

This week I read about some bizarre excuses people have used when calling out of work:

- A bear was in employee's yard and they were afraid to come out.
- Employee broke his arm wrestling a female bodybuilder.
- Employee called in "fat" because uniform didn't fit.
- Dog swallowed employee's car keys so she was waiting until it came out.
- Employee had to re-schedule a new manicure because some of their artificial nails fell off.¹

Now heres the catch about these excuses, these were used in situations where the employee still requested to be paid for their time off.

They were part of a PTO program where they would receive the same benefits sitting at home as they would have gotten doing the work.

God has called us to the incredible task of representing Him here in our world and I don't understand why anyone would want to miss the benefits of serving Him.

TT - Joshua is one of the great examples in the Bible a man who responded obediently to God's call on his life and I want to lay on your heart three things about the call to go from [Joshua 1:1-18](#)

1. Called From Above - [Joshua 1:1–3](#) (KJV)

¹ Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, ² Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

Who we are precedes what we do:

Notice the number of times we see servant and minister as this is opened up.

[Mark 9:35](#) “³⁵ And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.”

There is a call from God to be a holy people:

[Colossians 1:21–23](#) (KJV 1900)

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: ²³ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Paul David Tripp writes,

Biblical maturity is never just about what you know; it's always about how grace has employed what you have come to know to transform the way you live.²

Urgency of the call - v.2

now therefore arise, go over this Jordan

The Source of the Call: - v.1
that the Lord spake unto Joshua

We have a call from Above - [Hebrews 3:1](#) “1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”

We have a call from Below - [Luke 16:27](#) “27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house.”

We have a Call from Within - [Romans 1:15](#) “15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”

We have call Before Us - [Hebrews 12:1](#) “1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

We have a Call Behind Us - [Isaiah 30:21](#) “21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, When ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

The cross is calling from behind us:

So this is the call to be, but there is another aspect of the call and that is the obedience to say YES to what God has called you to DO.

2. Called to Say “YES” - Joshua 1:4–9 (KJV)

⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. ⁵ There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶ Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. ⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Illustrate those who have struggled for years with this call:

Out of thirteen men who surrendered to preach in one service at an association in the summer of 1908 one of them had fought God’s will for four years, one fourteen years and all the others between four and fourteen years had been fighting God’s will.³

Throughout the Bible the warriors of God, the people who made the biggest impact for God’s kingdom, all shared one common trait: They all said “yes”

Say YES to the specific task - v2 -

go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people,

Say YES to the specific place- v. 4

⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

Say YES to God's Presence! - v. 5, 9

5. ...as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

9. ...for the Lord thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Say YES to the Word - v.7-8

That thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

Say YES to God's Wisdom- v. 8

for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

This is a personal call on your life but it is not for just you to keep to yourself. You are called to :

3. Called to Bring Others v.10-18

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, ¹¹ Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it. ¹² And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, ¹³ Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, The Lord your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. ¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; ¹⁵ Until the Lord have given your brethren rest, as *he hath given* you, and they also have possessed the land which the Lord your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising. ¹⁶ And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. ¹⁷ According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whosoever *he be* that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

There is a part of our lives that we are propelled to share with others the grace that we find daily receiving at the hands of our Savior.

v.10 - share the vision with

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

v.11 - teach others who will teach others

¹¹ Pass through the host, and command the people, saying,

v.13- point them back to the Word

¹³ Remember the word

v.17 - to trust our leadership

¹⁷ According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

Closing:

God has called you to be holy

God has called you to a task

Are you going to call in to call out with an excuse?

Let me close with this :

The tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half tribe of Manasseh became content with land on the wrong side of the Jordan ([Numbers 32](#))

They told Moses they wanted to stay here instead of enjoying the benefits of Canaan.

There are some of you that have come out of Egypt but you're too enamored with the wilderness that you're not willing to live a life of victory in Canaan.

¹ <https://press.careerbuilder.com/2017-11-16-Increased-Number-of-Workers-Calling-In-Sick-When-They-Arent-Finds-CareerBuilders-Annual-Survey>

² Tripp, Paul David. *Dangerous Calling* (p. 26). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

³ L.R. Scarborough's *Recruits for World Conquests*, published by Fleming H. Revell Company, 1914.