

04 29 2023
When Jesus Calls
Martinwood Christian Church

When Jesus Calls

I hope everyone is doing well today. It is a great day to praise and worship the Lord so let's get going.

Do you ever wonder what to do when God calls us? The Bible tells us if we don't answer, He comes after us. Even when we walk away or doubt Him, He does not give up on us. He does not let us go.

Remember the guys headed to Emmaus? I can just see it now, these guys are on this long and dusty road headed home, Emmaus, after the Passover, even though Mary told the disciples to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 24 13-15

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

They obviously did not believe that Jesus came back from being crucified. They just couldn't wrap their heads around it. Ever wonder why Jesus appeared to them? So He wouldn't lose any more disciples. He chastised them for not believing before He appeared to them.

Luke 24:33-34

So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

So what about Mary? Why do you think He appeared to Mary? So she'd believe. He needed to make an impression....and Mary? She must've been a persuasive person. Why do you think the disciples didn't go with Mary to the tomb?

I sometimes wonder if they were in shock over what happened, or maybe scared because they thought they were being sought after, or maybe it was their lack of faith. And Peter and only one other disciple went to the tomb. What's up with that? Even Thomas doubted what happened.

They couldn't wrap their heads around anything they could touch, see or feel. Even though they saw Jesus raise people from the dead, they lacked in their faith. So what happens when we're called by Jesus? Does He have to show up for us to believe His existence? So He appeared to them too.

Mark 16:14

Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

That's called Faith. It's like John said:

Jesus did so many wonders that it would fill books and books, but the reason we have the miracles they've given us is so we will believe.

Have you ever thought about the things that happened on roads? And why they happen on roads. Long and lonesome highways east of Omaha? Let's take Saul for example. Jesus reached out to him, the worst of the worst.

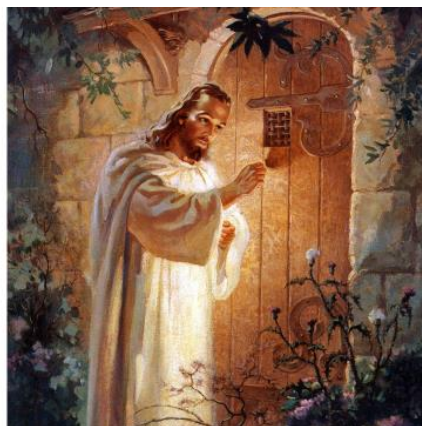
Luke 22:6-8

“Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me.

Luke 22:6-8

And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’

So what do we do when Jesus calls? I guess we have to decide why Jesus is calling also. Maybe we’ve strayed or He thinks we need a boost of Power or Faith. I don’t think He just knocks to be saying hello. He always has a message for us, but no matter what we do (like Saul) He never leaves us. He goes after the unbelievers; even the worst of the worst (Saul), But look what happens. Saul nor Paul wrote over 2/3 of the New Testament.



I know, I know there are times you feel all alone, maybe you’re cussing out God for something He’s done, or didn’t do, but He never leaves you and

He's always there for us....knocking to show you the way, the truth and the life, through Him.

Plan what you'll do when you meet him. Keep in mind He says we are made in His image.

**Think about what you'd do or say
if you saw Jesus coming for you.**

Lord,

We look to you for support when we need it most. As we leave today we will leave our cares and concerns at the foot of your cross for you to handle because we surely have a hard time handling some of our troubles, but we have faith and confidence that, in your hands, all things are possible. To you be the glory. Thank you for blessing our ministry on 8th Avenue. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.