

Title: Walking Worthy of Your Calling

Passage: Ephesians 4:1-7

Introduction:

Palm Sunday: represents Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem leading up to his crucifixion.

- Question: What was Jesus thinking when doing so?
- Answer: Jesus was thinking of His church. See Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, which was done just hours to His crucifixion.

John 17:1 (context: conclusion of the Last Supper)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

John 17:8-9

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:15-17

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:20-23 (Jesus' prayer for the church)

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:26 (conclusion)

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Context of Passage:

Ephesians 1-3: laying out the foundational truths for the church. What God has done for us and what He will bring about to pass.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Passage: Ephesians 4:1-7

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Question: How would you measure the health of a church?

- Consider the church is not an end in of itself (ie building or meeting of Sunday's only). It's not what you "do"
- Answer: the church is the people, those who are called out (Greek word: *ekklesia*). it is who we are everyday. It's who we "are".

How would you measure your faith and living it out as being part of the church?

Overview:

- I. Cost
- II. Call
- III. Characteristic
- IV. Outcome

I. COST

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

“prisoner for the Lord”

Meanings (two):

- to walk and live the Christian life is not without cost.
 - “prisoner”: Paul was literally in chains and confinement because of His identity in Christ.
- cost is worth it
 - “for the Lord”. For Whom carries the ultimate value and worth.

Luke 9:23-24

And [Jesus] said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

- everyday dying: dying to self (and flesh)

Quote: When

Quote: “No reserves, no retreat, no regrets”

II. CALL

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

“urge you”

- Urge you = beseech you = implore you
 - This is an urgent request. Not a mere suggestion.

“to walk”

- implies a continuous action (not a one-time event)

“worthy”

- Jesus is revealed as glorious and supreme to you.

Philippians 1:27

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

“calling to which you have been called”

- holy, heavenly calling that comes only from God.

III. CHARACTERISTICS

Ephesians 4:2-3

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

humility

- Foundational attitude for a relationship in Christ
- Contrast: God is opposed to the proud

James 4:6

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Book recommendation: “Humility: True Greatness” by C.J. Mahaney

How know you are humble?

- How do you respond to correction?
- Find it hard to forgive?
- What are your motives when serve?

Zechariah 9:9b

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Gentleness

- Humility and gentleness go together

Matthew 5:5

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Patience

- Word: “long tempered” = long with passion
- patience is an outgrowth of humility and gentleness
- patience is the flagship of love

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

“Bearing with one another in love”

- “agape” love = unconditional , forbearing love
- Love anything as Jesus loved will result in pain but also become richer and deeper. Real love costs. (C.S. Lewis)

Romans 15:4-5

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus

IV. OUTCOME

Ephesians 4:3-7

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

“grace was given to each one of us”

- comes through faith alone in Christ alone

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Come to Me (decision)
- Take My Yoke (action)
- Learn from Me (process)

Other Verses Shared During Service

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.