

Mark 3:13-19 (NIV) *(list of apostles is also named in [Matt 10:2-4](#) and [Luke 6:12-19](#))*

- ¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.
- ¹⁴ He appointed twelve--designating them apostles -- **that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach**
- ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.
- ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
- ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, *(Bo-uh-nerg-gees)* which means Sons of Thunder);
- ¹⁸ Andrew *(brother of Peter)*, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot
- ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Romans 1:1 (NIV)

- ¹ **Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--**

Opening Text: [Mark 3:14](#); [Romans 1:1](#);

Republic, June 22, 2025

Title: "The Call to God's Service"

Introduction -

God has always been in the "Calling" business. From Old Testament times He called out Leaders, Prophets, Judges, and later Kings. In the New Testament Jesus called men to full time service with Him. He spent lots of time with them, basically training them as they also saw the things Jesus did and heard what He said. Later when they were ready, they did His ministry.

Today is what Joplin District Church of the Nazarene calls "Call to Ministry" Sunday.

I. VARIOUS JOBS

Ephesians 4:7; 11-16; (NIV)

- 7 But to each one of us **grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.**

In this verse Grace implies God's favor, His power, to do His work. Ephesians tells us that Christ gives this grace to each person according to the level Christ proportions it.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

- ¹¹ It was he (*Christ*) who gave **some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,**
- ¹² **to prepare God's people for works of service,** so that the body of Christ may be built up
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This can be a calling to the above list. I would add Music Leaders, worship team members which includes musicians and singers, people to sing special songs, Youth Ministry, Soundbooth techs, etc. But I think there may be a calling to be nursery workers, children workers, greeters at the door, Sunday School teachers, people to shovel off snow on sidewalks and throw down salt, a person to keep an eye on the building to see what we need to do, Celebrate Recovery leaders, repair workers around the Church, caretakers of the church property, social activity leader, men and women's ministry leaders, board members, church cleaners, people who bake cookies at Christmas time and bring little baggies for each family to bring some home, even a Church secretary, or treasurer. I believe these are ALL calls to the ministry God wants us in.

The bottom line? They are all there to help build all of us up, including the one doing the ministry position.

Ephesians 4:13 (NIV)

- ¹³ **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**
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We do things that God wants us to do. We do it the way He wants us to do it. The results will be all of us become more mature, and become all that Christ wants from each of us.

Ephesians 4:14-16 (NIV)

- ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
- ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
- ¹⁶ From him the whole body, **joined & held together by every supporting ligament,** grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**
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All of these verses show a church full of people helping in every way. It's a team, and each person is important.

In many ministry positions such as Pastor, you become God's authority to help people in the congregation get to the place they need to be spiritually. But, really, any person called of God should help bring about maturity in everyone IF those leaders are truly led by God when they do what they are called to do. [John 6:63](#) "It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh counts for nothing." If you do your own thing, you will just create problems. We do not need opinions, we need people who are led of God in all things.

II. TYPES OF MINISTRY

A. Full-Time Ministry

B. Part-Time Ministry, or sometimes called Bi-vocational

Example: New Horizons Gospel Group

Their Dad and Mom were ministers of Lebanon Church of the Nazarene for 51 yrs.

Becky - was a school teacher for many, many years.

Max - Was the owner of a Christian radio station in Lebanon

Danny - Was past owner of a sound system company, also runs sound for huge events, and has been County Commissioner of Laclede County.

Yet, they have spent their lives working for God, singing on weekends, and still found time to be heavily involved in their Church. They were part-time ministers for God, and only God knows how many lives have been changed because of their ministry.

C. Volunteers

If everyone that helped in the church was paid, the average sized churches would go out of business.

III. THE CALL, WHEN?, HOW DO YOU KNOW?

A. THE CALL

Mark 1:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother

Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

17 **"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."**

Come, follow me, let me lead you, and I will make you _____ whatever I call you to do.

Mark 1:18-20 (NIV)

18 At once they left their nets and followed him. (*followed full time for now*)

19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

B. WHEN?, HOW?

1. For me, it was a feeling I had inside of me every since I was a child. I used to pray "God make me anything but a preacher or a missionary." *Why would a child pray such a thing? Why would they even worry God might want them to be a preacher or missionary unless something inside of them felt a calling?*
2. For others, God may wait until you get saved and fully committed to Him. Then He calls you to some kind of ministry.
3. For even others, God may wait until you have lived life for awhile, experiencing different jobs, or different things that will help you be the Minister He wants you to be.

Even though I felt the call to the ministry, God had me work in different jobs before I started pastoring. I managed a big video store for awhile, was a Police-man, was a teacher of traffic classes that at one time had 13 employees. All of it was training for me. God does the same type of things with other people.

I know other ministers who felt a call to the ministry much later in life - like their mid 40's, or even older.

When you feel the call, it will stay with you. You will know it because it does not

go away.

If your calling is to become a minister, whether it be an Associate Pastor, Worship leader, Youth minister, etc.:

IV. STEPS TO BECOMING A FULL-TIME NAZARENE MINISTER

A. Do a Course of Study that prepares you for the ministry.

- 1.) Go to a Nazarene College, like Mid-American Nazarene University in Olathe, Ks.
- 2.) Do the online program through Nazarene Bible College out of Colorado.
- 3.) Do the home-study course through Joplin District Church of the Nazarene.

B. Go through the licensing process

- 1.) Establish a reputation as a Godly man or woman in your local Church, and do works of service in the Church. Allow them to see your consistency, and how reliable you are.
- 2.) The Church Board eventually issues a Local Preachers License.
- 3.) Later, after a church recommendation and after an interview, the District interviews the person for a District license.
- 4.) Eventually become Ordained after your training is complete, and after a few years of pastoring, or in the ministry of some sort.

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (NIV)

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ **"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."**

God knows every one of you. I knew you before HE formed you in the womb. You have a purpose. You have a job for Him. You have an assignment.

Jeremiah 1:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

⁷ But the LORD said to me, **"Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."**

When God calls us to anything, it is important we operate through Him. He is in charge. We go and do what He tells us. We say whatever He tells us to say. God doesn't need your opinions and ideas. He needs you to get His opinions and ideas.

The less opinionated you are the better. The better listener you are to God, the better.

Jeremiah 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Be sure you are doing God's work, then don't be afraid. Say and do what He tells you.

Jeremiah 1:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ **Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth.**

¹⁰ See, **today I appoint you** over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

Tear down the bad, the things that are not of God. Build up what God wants, not necessarily what you want.

Jeremiah 1:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ **"Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you.**
Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.

That is the job of someone in the ministry. Get yourself ready. Say what God tells you to say, not what you think needs to be said.

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" **And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

Summary -

What has God been talking to you about? Do you even try to hear from Him? What is He calling you to do? And, if you do not know, ask Him. Then talk to me sometime

about what you believe you are hearing God say. I will pray about it, and we will go from there.

Closing Prayer Pastor Mike