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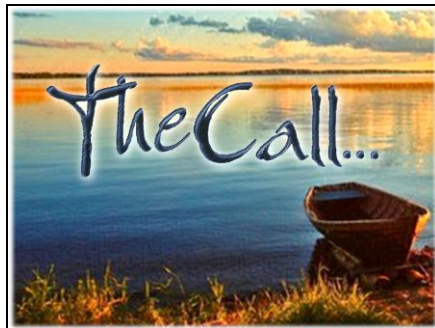
The Call

Matthew 4:18-20

572 Give of Your Best to the Master

573 I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

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Many have heard it... Enoch... Job...

Abraham... Moses...

Prophets... Priest... Statesmen... Kings...
and lowly Shepherds

Rich folk... Poor Folk... Smart Folk...

Simple folk... Good Folk... sometimes...
maybe most of the time... Bad Folk

Men... Women... yes even... Children...
have heard... The Call

Come up... Come out... Come here...
Follow me!

Sometimes it's a whisper... sometimes
an impression... sometimes it's written
in the pages... sometimes in providence
At times it was a voice... of a stranger...
soft... confident... convicting

Follow Me!

It didn't mean someday... it didn't
mean when your ready... it meant
NOW... it always means NOW!

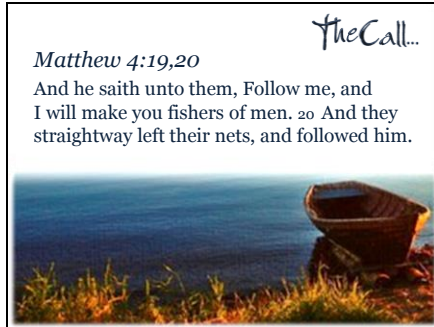
"Let the dead bury their dead"... the
voice would say... follow me... or say
goodbye to mom and dad... you
choose!

Abram... He knows our name... He
know everything about us...

“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

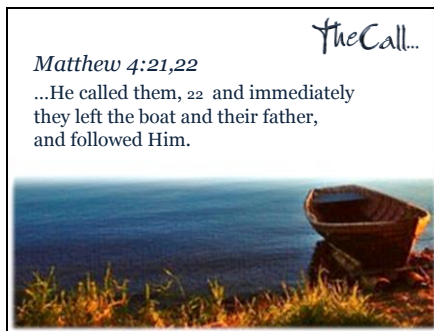
Submission... Separation... Sacrifice...
The Voice Calls

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18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

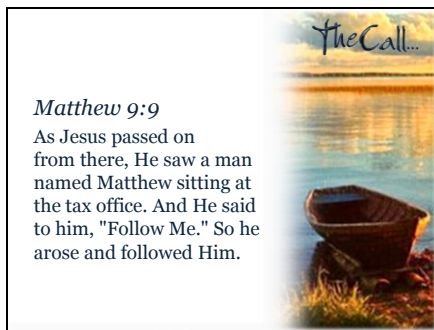
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21 Going on from there, He saw **two other brothers, James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets...

Peter and Andrew “**straight away**” ...
John and James “**immediately**”
...Matthew arose from the tax table and followed Him.

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Says... Luke 5:28 So he **left all**, rose up, and followed Him.


What would that look like?
Someone comes into the office and says... Follow Me!
And you stand up and hand in your 2 second notice
Peter and Andrew “**straight away**” ...

What would your wife think... your children... your family... your friends?
If you just packed your bags and left?

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The Call...

Matthew 8:21,22
And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.
22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.



Does this seem somewhat radicle?

Of course Jesus is speaking in metaphors... the Physically dead can't bury anyone... their dead!


He is speaking about the Spiritually dead... those who are not interested... in The Call

The radicle... following of Jesus!
Following Jesus is never easy... because it calls us to... Come Out!

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The Call...

Matthew 16:24
Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.




Not worthy of me

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The Call...

Luke 14:33
"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.




Jesus didn't say these word tartly... for Mark adds

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The Call...

Mark 10:21
"One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."



"Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him..."

Jesus Call is a radicle call... but it is one of love... it Calls us to separate... From the things... that will keep us from... fully committing to Him

In the case of this man...

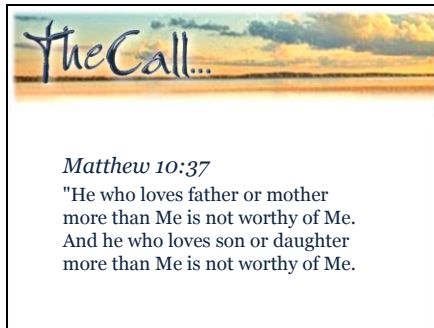
22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

The Call is one of... Submission... Separation... and Sacrifice

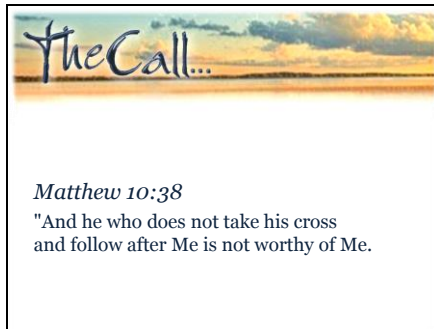
Matthew picks up Jesus' words:

Lu 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

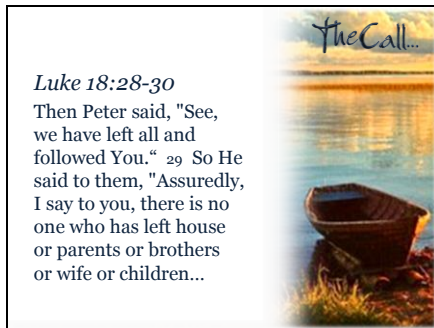
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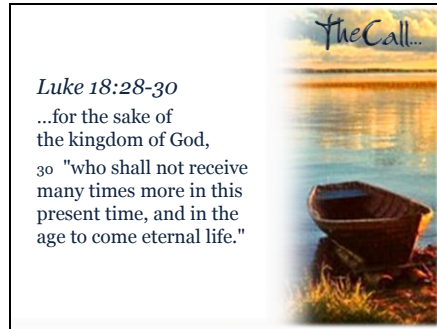
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The Call... Is it worth it?
That is the question?

I suppose... the deeper question... is do
we believe it?

What are we protecting... holding...
wanting more... than Heaven?

Is the Call... radicle... is hanging on to
this world radicle?

What are we afraid of?

Heb 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called
to go out into a place which he should
after receive for an inheritance,
obeyed; and he went out, not knowing
whither he went. 9 By faith he dwelt in
the land of promise as in a foreign
country, dwelling in tents with Isaac
and Jacob, the heirs with him of the
same promise; 10 for he waited for the
city which has foundations, whose
builder and maker is God.

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Why would Paul and so many others...
have sacrificed... willingly... so much?
Two reason... both based on...
Experience and Faith...

The First... a personal living
experience... with Christ

Ac 20:24 But none of these things
move me, neither count I my life dear
unto myself, so that I might finish my
course with joy, and the ministry, which
I have received of the Lord Jesus, to
testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Eph 3:18 May be able to comprehend
with all saints what is the breadth, and
length, and depth, and height; 19 And
to know the love of Christ, which
passeth knowledge, that ye might be
filled with all the fulness of God.

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Philippians 3:8 The Call...
Yet indeed I also count all things loss
for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ
Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered
the loss of all things, and count them as
rubbish, that I may gain Christ



The disciples... walked and talked with
Jesus... face to face... in the flesh

Most of us have never had that
Privilege... including Paul
But Jesus said to Thomas:

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas,
because you have seen Me, you have
believed. Blessed are those who have
not seen and yet have believed."

Paul says:


To Know Christ... to gain Him... who had
given everything to gain us...
Was worth anything... and indeed
everything to Paul... and not him only
here and now... and to eventually see
Him face to face in glory

He wasn't the only one... but all the
faithful... who heard... The Call... and
followed its leading

Hebrews tells us:

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1 Corinthians 13:12 The Call...
For now we see in a
mirror, dimly, but then
face to face. Now I know in
part, but then I shall know
just as I also am known.



14 For those who say such things
declare plainly that they seek a
homeland.


15 And truly if they had called to mind
that country from which they had come
out, they would have had opportunity
to return.

16 But now they desire a better, that is,
a heavenly country. Therefore God is
not ashamed to be called their God, for
He has prepared a city for them.

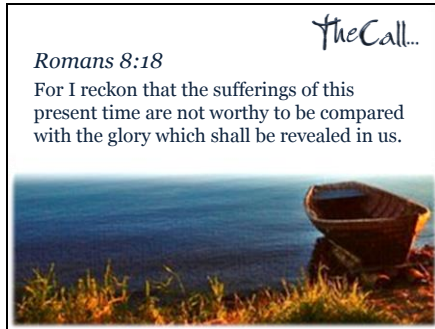
This is Paul's second reason:

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Hebrews 4:13 The Call...
These all died in faith, not having
received the promises, but having seen
them afar off were assured of them,
embraced them and confessed that they
were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.



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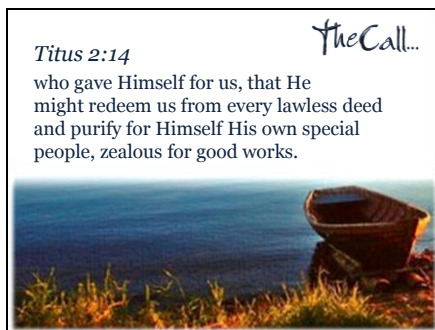


To know Christ... to see him face to face in Glory... to gain that Promised Land... From the promised One...

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Hebrews 4:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

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This has been the drive force... the master passion... the motivator to Submission... Separation... Sacrifice... and Surrender

The Call... not everyone was called to die for it... not everyone was called to a far away place...

Not everyone who hears it... must leave family... friends...

But everyone who hears it... and wants what it offers... counts all things but loss

All to Jesus I surrender ... all to Him I freely give... I will ever love and Trust

Him... in his presence daily live

Is more than... a wishful song... to The Called... It is a life

Jesus cares about only two things... saving you... and you helping to save others

That is what the Call is about... it is progressive yes... but it is total
A willingness... a wanting-ness... to Gain Christ

I have been inspired lately... by many passages in the DA... calling me to just such a surrender

But this one especially struck me:

The Desire of Ages pp 224, 225

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. "Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philippians 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor.

What is the Call worth?

What is it that keeps us for giving all to it?

Jesus asks:

Mt 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mt 20:16 "So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

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573 I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go