

YEAR 3

COMMISSIONED BY GOD: BECOMING AND DOING

(Matthew 28:18-20)

SESSION 1

THE SOURCE OF OUR ASSIGNMENTS

(Ephesians 2:10)

HOUR 1: GOD'S CALL IS BASED ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND OUR CONFORMING BY HIM



Key Question: *How do God's assignments relate to our calling and conforming?*

- I. Our call is primarily to a relationship, not an activity.
 - A. CEOs are wired for activity – getting the job done. They measure their success by performance – what they accomplish. Investing in a relationship can appear to be non-productive if it does not lead to immediate, measurable results.
 - B. CEOs tend to be Type A people. Relationships can be viewed as a means to the end, rather than the end itself.
 - C. Jesus' primary call is always to a relationship and it's out of the relationship with God that the conforming/transforming process occurs and God's assignments are given.
 1. Relationship: "*Follow Me . . .*" (**Mark 1:17**).
 2. Conforming/Transforming: "*. . . and I will make you become . . .*" (**Mark 1:17**).
 3. Assignment: "*. . . fishers of men*" (**Mark 1:17**).
 - D. Knowing and spending time with Christ does not merely equip us for a task, it is also the reward. In spending time with God, we experience the same joy that God experiences (**Psalm 16:11; John 15:11**). It is in our relationship with Christ that we experience His joy, counsel, care, comfort, protection, presence, and eternal pleasures (**Psalm 25:1-15, 84, 85, 86, Romans 14:17**).
 - E. As we spend time with Christ, He transforms us and equips us so we can be of use to Him (**Matthew 10:1, 5**).
 - F. Our assignments flow out of the overflow of our walk with God. If we have not been spending time with Christ, not only will we not think or act like Him, but we will have nothing to give to others (**Acts 3:6; 4:13**).
 - G. We cannot serve God today with yesterday's walk with God. We cannot give to others what we don't have ourselves! Apart from abiding in Christ, we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). Abiding means to "remain in, dwell in, live in" relationship with Him, in the word – meditating and pondering what He is speaking to us through the word. This requires a daily, unhurried time with Him in the word, dialoguing, journaling, praying, listening, considering where He wants us to adjust our life. The hindrances to abiding are being too occupied with our work and daily tasks, not setting aside an unhurried time in the word without distractions (email, cell phone, etc.), or merely reading a quick devotion where there is no life from the Spirit for us – so we can get through it as fast as possible and begin the duties of the day. Abiding is the gateway to His assignments to us.

- II. God's purpose is for us to be conformed into Christ's image, resulting in life change.
 - A. Our relationship with Christ will transform us into Christ-likeness (**Romans 8:28-30**).
 - B. Spending time in Christ's presence will transform us into His likeness (**II Corinthians 3:18**).
 - C. God shapes us for the specific assignment He has for us (**Ephesians 2:10**).

We are *clay* and God is the *Potter* who shapes us into the instrument for His purpose (**Isaiah 64:8**). God utilizes any circumstance, easy or difficult, to shape us, and remove qualities He does not want.

- D. God's purpose is for us to expand His kingdom for His purposes (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
- III. CEOs have the opportunity to become spiritual statesperson...disciples of Jesus Christ who exert influence for God's kingdom.
 - A. CEOs, like all Christians, are called to be disciples of Jesus (**Acts 11:26**).
 - B. Disciples are people who follow their teacher wherever He leads (**Luke 9:57-62**).
 - C. Spiritual statesperson are disciples to whom God has given extensive leadership in His kingdom. It is not something we can strive for, but something God appoints.
 - D. Believers should strive to be faithful to their calling so they are continually being made more like Christ and being given greater responsibility in God's kingdom (**Matthew 25:21**). We cannot choose to be a spiritual statesperson, but we can choose to be faithful in a little so God continually gives us more. Statespersonship comes from successfully serving God as a spiritual leader and being granted extensive spiritual influence in God's kingdom.
 - E. God appoints spiritual statesmen because "He loves His people" (**II Chronicles 2:11**).

Summary: You do not become a CEO randomly, but through a journey of growth and faithfulness over time. Likewise, there is a direct correlation between God's assignment and the quality of your relationship to Him and your conforming by Him. Every assignment originates out of your relationship with God. Every assignment reflects your character and the level of trust between God and you.

Journal Questions:

What?

So What?

Now What?

HOUR 2: GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS MATCH OUR CHARACTER



Key Question: *What kind of character is God pleased to use?*

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5-11).

I. Character Qualities God Uses.

A. Fear of God (**Matthew 10:28; II Corinthians 5:11**)

Question: Should we fear God today? If so, how does our fear of God affect what God does through us in the marketplace?

B. Faithfulness (**Revelation 2:10**)

Question: How does our faithfulness to God affect what God does through us in the marketplace?

C. Obedience (**I Samuel 15:22**)

Question: How will our obedience to God affect what God accomplishes through our life in the marketplace?

D. Seeks and loves God (**Exodus 34:12-23**)

Question: How does our love for God affect what He does through our life in the marketplace?

E. Servant of the Lord (**Colossians 3:23-24**)

Question: How does our willingness to serve the Lord in any capacity affect what God does through our life in the marketplace?

II. Examples of people God chose to use and bless:

1. Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3**)
2. David (**2 Samuel 7**)
3. The man (**Psalms 1:1-3**)
4. Peter (**Acts 5:12-16**)

III. Character traits God refuses to bless:

- A. Pride: People who know best (**1 Samuel 13:13; Proverbs 26:12**). *Some people refuse to heed others' counsel. They are unteachable.*

King Ahab (1 Kings 22:1-40)

- B. People who attempt to set limits on God's lordship over their life (**Luke 18:29-30**). *They want to set the terms for their relationship with God.*

King Saul (1 Samuel 15:1-35)

- C. People with divided hearts (**Luke 9:61-62**). *They want to please God and indulge in the world at the same time.*

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

- D. People who claim to admire Jesus and His teachings, but who refuse to obey and follow Him.

Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-23)

- E. People who refuse to believe God and attempt to reduce Him to the level of their belief.

People from Jesus' home town, Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6)

Summary: When interviewing potential employees for your company, how important is a potential employee's character to you? God is seeking women and men of character and He has clearly set forth His standard for what He is looking for in the people He uses. We do not have to be perfect for God to use us; but we have to be moldable so He can transform us into a servant who brings Him glory by how we live and serve. Our model is Jesus Christ.

Journal Questions:

What?

So What?

Now What?

HOUR 3: GOD COMMUNICATES HIS ASSIGNMENTS UNIQUELY, CLEARLY, AND UNMISTAKABLY



Key Question: *How does God communicate His assignments to us?*

- I. God wants you to know and do His will more than you do (**Matt. 6:6, 10**)!
- II. God communicates His will to you as you abide in Him (**John 15:5, 15**), by the Holy Spirit, and abide in His word (**John 8:31-32**).
- III. Throughout Scripture, God clearly revealed to people what His will was:
 - A. Noah (**Gen. 6:13-22**)
 - B. Abraham (**Gen. 12:1-3**)
 - C. Moses (**Exodus 3**)
 - D. Elijah (**1 Kings 19:15-17**)
 - E. Paul (**Acts 16:6-10**)
- VI. In Scripture, the key was never how God spoke, but that He communicated His will clearly. God will communicate His will to you through the Holy Spirit, abiding within you (**John 16:13-15**).
- V. The Holy Spirit can communicate to you in a plethora of ways, but today, He generally uses four primary means:
 - A. The Bible
 1. What might you conclude God was telling you if He guided you to apply this verse to your life in the marketplace?
 - a. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - b. **Matthew 10:32-33**
 - c. **Matthew 10:37-39**
 - d. **Matthew 6:33**
 - e. **Matthew 21:20-22**
 2. The key is to be regularly reading in each section of the Bible. Allow the Holy Spirit to draw your attention to those verses He wants to apply particularly to your life at that time. Keep a journal so you can track how the Spirit is guiding you.
 - B. Prayer
 1. Prayer is a conversation. God speaks through prayer:
 - a. Peter (**Acts 10:9-23**)
 - b. The early church (**Acts 1:14**)
 - c. John (**Revelation 1:9-17**)

2. As you pray about God's will, be sensitive to the impressions the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Be sure to connect the dots between what you pray for and what happens next!

C. Circumstances

1. God speaks through circumstances:
 - a. David (**2 Samuel 5:19, 23**)
 - b. Elijah (**1 Kings 17:3-5, 8, 18:1**)
 - c. Phillip (**Acts 8:26-40**)
2. Your circumstances can confuse you unless you allow the Holy Spirit to help you understand them through the Bible, prayer, and other believers.

CI. People

1. God speaks through other people:
 - a. David (**2 Sam. 12:1-15**)
 - b. Hezekiah (**2 Kings 19:1-7**)
 - c. Jeremiah (**21:1-14**)
 - d. Peter (**Acts 10:34-48**)
2. You are wise to surround yourself with godly counselors who know the Scriptures and who know how to pray and to hear from God. Always test what people tell you with the other three ways God speaks.
3. Don't let other people hear from God for you. When they share a word from God, test it, and go to God so you hear that word yourself to confirm what you have been told.

Summary: Good managers do not abandon their employee and let them figure out their work on their own. Neither does God! He places His Holy Spirit within each believer so He abides with them continually. The Spirit is not a mute bystander! He guides you in exactly the same way that Jesus led His twelve disciples. The key is to learn to recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance. We must cultivate our spiritual senses. But be encouraged! God wants you to know His will! He will do everything necessary so you know what He has for you. (**Jeremiah 42**)

Journal Questions:

What?

So What?

Now What?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blackaby, Henry and Blackaby, Thomas. *The Man God Uses*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1999.

Blackaby, Henry and Blackaby, Richard. *Called to Be God's Leader: Lessons from the Life of Joshua*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Blackaby, Richard. *Unlimiting God: Increasing Your Capacity to Experience the Divine*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2008.

Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*. Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 1998.

Lotz, Anne Graham. *Just Give Me Jesus*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2000.

MacArthur, John. *Twelve Ordinary Men: How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2002.

Murray, Andrew. *God's Plans for You*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1983.

Thomas, Major W. Ian. *The Indwelling Life of Christ*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2006.