

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Interrupted and Redirected By God

by Dan Trygg

“Yahweh said to Abram: Go out from your land, ...and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” Genesis 12:1
“Samuel had not yet experienced Yahweh, because the word of Yahweh had not yet been revealed to him.” 1 Samuel 3:7
“But that night the word of Yahweh came to Nathan...” 2 Samuel 7:4
“Master, we've worked hard all night long and caught nothing! But at Your word, I'll let down the nets.” Luke 5:5

God is the One who calls us out. He calls us out of our blindness, our selfishness, our self-preoccupation, our expectations, our patterns of living, our traditions, and often our circumstances and our relationships. **He interrupts and redirects our lives.** He takes us from where we were, and sets us on a new path. Like Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, ...old things have passed away, behold new things have come.” Often, we think that is just a one-time crisis event, when we first come to Christ, but, in reality, **God intends to continue to interrupt and redirect our lives to lead us deeper into our relationship with Him and His purposes in our lives.** If we want to go deeper with Christ, we need to *expect, look for, and respond* to those interruptions.

When we look back on Biblical and church history, we see a long list of people who God called out. He interrupted the life they knew and anticipated, and He redirected them into a pathway which led in a new direction, ...one concerning which they had no expectation, or thought or even inclination.

We read of God calling **Abram** at 75 years of age, telling him to leave his relatives and his father's house, and go to a land that Yahweh would show him. God expected him to leave everything he knew, and go to a totally unknown place, ...a place that God would not even *name!* He had to sever all ties, say goodbye to all the friends and relatives, and strike off in a nebulous, unexplainable direction to “Who knows where?” He couldn't even give any detailed information to those who asked, ...because he didn't know! Whatever Abram's thoughts or expectations regarding his life had been, it certainly had not involved this! **God interrupted Abram's life and sent him on a whole new direction in his life, ...and a destiny in which he would become a father of many nations, and through his seed all the families of the earth could find blessing.**

Gideon had lived under the heavy oppression of Midianite raiders, who came through the land like swarms of locusts. They attacked the people, ate or destroyed their crops, and took their livestock. These repeated cycles of invasion had dominated the Israelites for seven years. It had become the norm, and the people of Israel had to learn how to survive in such circumstances. Gideon was beating out wheat in a winepress, where he would not be seen, when **the angel of Yahweh interrupted him, and called him to deliver Israel from their oppressors.** After that encounter, it was the voice of Yahweh who directed Gideon step-by-step, ...first calling him to tear down the altar of Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole that stood next to it. This act pushed him forward as a radical for Yahweh. Then, when the Midianites next came into the land, the Spirit of Yahweh came upon him, and God led him to an amazing victory that clearly showed that Yahweh was fighting for Israel. **God interrupted Gideon's life, pushed him to take radical action for Him, and redirected his life from being a man of fear to being a fearless warrior who God used mightily.**

Samuel was just a boy, ...a child dedicated by his family to serve Yahweh in the tabernacle. He had no big expectations for himself. He was just a servant, ...that was really the only role he knew or expected. He was surrounded with the trappings of religion. And the religious system he was growing up around had become corrupt and abusive, by virtue of Eli's sons. Eli had been a man of God, but he allowed the religious corruption going on around him to continue. Samuel was growing up in an environment of religious formalism and compromise. It was probably a good thing that he was just a servant, and much younger than Eli's sons, because they had little interest in him. **But God had other plans for Samuel. God called him out. Yahweh interrupted his life, and redirected his path.** No one would have expected it, ...least of all Samuel. But God came and called to him in the night. He could hear the voice, but did not know Who it was. He assumed it was Eli. Once it became clear that it was Yahweh, Eli instructed him how to respond to God, ...and God revealed prophetic truth to him. God revealed to him what He intended to do with Eli's sons, and with Eli's house. More importantly, this encounter opened a new relationship with Yahweh that deepened and developed over time. God established Samuel as a genuine prophet of the Lord. **Samuel went from a no-account servant boy to a respected and honored prophet. This was God's plan, ...God's interruption.**

Nathan was an established prophet in king David's court. He was already a deep man of God. Earlier in the day, he had given his blessing to a desire and plan that David had shared with him to build a temple for Yahweh. However, as he retired for the evening, the word of Yahweh came to him. He had to go tell David that, although God

was pleased with the idea, David was not the person to do this. He was a man of war. David's son would be the one to build a house for Him. **God called to Nathan. Through this message to Nathan, God interrupted David's plan. Yahweh redirected him**, so that his focus was to amass the materials and prepare for the building process, though his son would be the one to actually build the house.

In Luke 5, **Peter, and others of Jesus' closest followers**, had abandoned their discipleship call, and had gone back to fishing. Jesus came along the shore, followed by a great crowd. He asked Peter if he would take Him out into the water on his boat, so He could preach to the crowd. Afterwards, Jesus told them to put out into the deep water and let their nets down for a catch. The professional fisherman patiently told the ex-carpenter that they had worked all night, but had caught nothing. Out of respect for Jesus' word (*rhēma*), however, he said he would do as He said. When he did, they enclosed a great school of fish, ...so many that they filled up his boat, and the boats of his partners! Suddenly, the enormity of the miracle *hit* him! Because of his concern for money, he had abandoned the Lord, and now, Jesus had clearly shown all of them God's ability to provide all that they needed. *How foolish he had been!* He cried out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Jesus responded, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will be catching people!" **Jesus' had called them out, again. His personal word to them had interrupted their plans, blew away their expectations and limited thinking, and He redirected their lives back into the pathway of discipleship.**

God has a way of doing this. Maybe He has done this in your life. I know He did in mine. In fact, fifty years ago today was such an experience for me. Just before I went to bed, my dad had come down to my bedroom to tell me that my Aunt and Uncle's foster daughter had been visiting her parents, and when she was walking back in the dark, she had been hit by a car. My dad said, "Be sure to pray for Fran." I remember curling up in the covers, and going through my laundry list of prayers. "God bless so and so" and "God be with so and so", and "God, be with Fran in the hospital. Help her through this horrific experience." **I thought I was done, but God interrupted me. He spoke to me in a very direct, clear way.** It was the first time I had ever consciously experienced such a thing, ...at least not in such a clear, definitive fashion. It was not an audible voice, ...but it may have well been, it was so clear in my mind. It didn't *sound* any different than my own inner voice. It wasn't like it was different in the *sound* in my head, ...but **God's voice was very different in how it spoke, and what it said.** First of all, **the Voice addressed me**, "Dan, get up and write a letter to your uncle..." It wasn't some wanderings of my mind. **It was very direct and clear.** "...ask him if you can come up to work on the farm this summer. You can help Fran." Well, I can tell you *this came as a complete surprise!* I had no desire to work on my uncle's farm, or any particular interest in Fran, either. She was an acquaintance, like a cousin that I would only occasionally see. It was not like I had ever said more than two words to her in my entire life! Furthermore, I had a girlfriend of my own. We had been dating pretty steadily for nearly a year. I had no interest in being gone for the summer! **I began to argue with the Voice, "I don't want to..."** I don't remember this part of the conversation so well as that first statement, but I remember that **He was very insistent. I needed to do this!** Finally, I said, "Ok, I'll write to my uncle in the morning." "No," said the Voice, "**you need to do it now.**" Exasperated, I cried out (in my mind), "I just want to go to sleep!" The Voice came back, "I am not going to let you sleep until you write the letter." At this, I gave in, "Ok." **As soon as I agreed, it was like I was filled with energy.** I hopped up out of bed, got dressed, bounded up the stairs, found a sheet of paper, and sat down to write. I am not generally quick in composing letters, but this night **the words just came.** I jotted them down as fast as I could, found an envelope, addressed it, stamped it, put the letter in it, and walked down to the mail box at the end of the drive way, stuck it in and put the flag up. I went back to bed, fell promptly asleep, and forgot all about it, ...until my uncle wrote back at the end of April (some two months later!), and told me I could come, if I still wanted to. **I did follow through, and God used me for the family on the farm, and used them for me, as well.** The day before I came, my uncle was hospitalized with bleeding ulcers. He was not able to work until about four days before I left. *That was how I was a help to them, ...I was cheap labor during that month I was there. They, however, had a deep, spiritual impact on me.* They had a relationship with God I had never witnessed before. God used *them* to challenge and encourage *me* to seek for more in my relationship with Him. **God had interrupted my life, and was directing me to experience something that was outside of the norms of my life. It was a preparation for things to come...**

Jesus said that those who are of God will hear the rhēma-words of God (Jn. 8:47), i.e., we will discern the personal communications from God. In John 5:20, Jesus said that the Father loved Him, and *showed Him* all that He was doing. He loves us, too (Jn. 16:27). He will show us, too. The word for "showed" means to "indicate, point out, make known, or cause to be seen" and can come by means that are visual, auditory, or by some internal awareness. We should be praying for and expecting such incursions, interruptions and redirections of our thoughts, as the Spirit leads us. We are to be welcoming the leadings and responses of God. As we ask for, expect and gladly respond to the directions of the Holy Spirit, when He will show us more. **Being led by the Spirit means expecting and anticipating God's interruptions, because we want to be redirected into His will, ...to partner with Him in what He has for us to do.**