

## “Embrace the Higher Calling”

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Rhema Christian Center

Every believer has a higher calling and when it's embraced it helps advance God's kingdom.

- The Higher Calling refers to intentionally living out faith in a way that impacts our world and glorifies God.

**Lk 5:3-11 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “**Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.**” <sup>5</sup> “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again.” <sup>6</sup> And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup> A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man.” <sup>9</sup> For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup> His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “**Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!**” <sup>11</sup> And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

- Peter's encounter with Jesus demonstrates the progressive nature of the higher call.
  - His natural vocation was instrumental in connecting him to his higher calling.
- Peter's obedience to the word of the Lord reaped both natural and spiritual benefits.

### Message Points:

#### 1. Recognize Your Value

**Ro 12:6 (NLT)** – “In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.”

**2 Co 4:7 (NKJV)** – “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

1. You have treasure in you and are valuable to the Kingdom.
  - a. Peter had to recognize that he wasn't just a fisherman, but a fisher of men.
  - b. He had to recognize that there was a higher calling on his life.
2. You have a higher calling on your life.
  - a. There is more for you.
  - b. There is more in you.

#### 2. Recognize the Need

**2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)** “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”

**2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)** “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.”

1. The Kingdom has need of what's in you.
  - a. Before Peter could enter his higher calling, he had to recognize the need for his gift.
2. Life experiences are often preparation for a higher calling.
  - a. God wastes nothing in the life of a believer.

### 3. **Recognize the Time**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT)** “For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.”

**Ephesians 5:15-16 (KJV)** “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

**Ephesians 5:15-16 (NLT)** “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”

1. Timing is important in embracing the higher call.
  - a. Stay in God’s timing.
2. “This time”, everything is different.
  - a. Now is the time.

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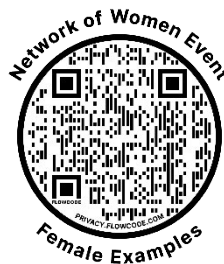
Examples of biblical and modern-day females who embraced the higher calling.

To read their stories, Scan here.

#### **Biblical Female examples:**

Jael (Judges 4)

Abigail (I Samuel 25)



#### **Modern day Female examples:**

Amanda Berry Smith

Mother Elizabeth Abney

#### **Book Recommendations:**

“*Everyday Supernatural*” by Joanne Moody, “*The Garden Within*” by Dr. Anita Phillips, “*An Autobiography of the Lord’s Dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith*” by Amanda Smith, and “*There is More*” by Dr. Randy Clark