

Conversation Starter

For the week of June 15 to 21, 2008

This week's theme: Why Me, Lord?

Reading #1: Ephesians 4:11-16
Reading #2: Romans 12:4-8
Reading #3: Exodus 35:30-35
Reading #4: Jeremiah 1:4-10

In order that God's people can be prepared for works of service, He called some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and some to be teachers. (See Reading #1: Ephesians 4:11-16) What this means is that God has called some people from within "the body of Christ" into a variety of "equipping" roles so that all His people are prepared to fulfill the "works of service" that He has in store for them. So what if you don't believe you are called to be an evangelist, a pastor or teacher? Does this mean that there are no "works of service" for you to do? On the contrary, there are a wide variety of ministries available for God's people. Check out readings #2 and #3 for some examples.

Some people who "feel" called by God into certain ministry roles may ask Him, "Why me, Lord?" while others whom God may be calling via the church leadership may also ask, "Why me, Lord?" "What do they see in me?" "Are they aware I don't have the necessary skills or abilities to fulfill that role?" If you have ever felt this way, then you're certainly not alone. In our 4th reading where God was calling Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations, in response to this call, Jeremiah asked the "Why Me, Lord?" question when he said: "Ah, Sovereign LORD...I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." (Jeremiah 1:6) And what was God's response to Jeremiah's reasoning: "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you..." (Jeremiah 1:7-8) If God has given you skills and abilities, then He wants you to use them for Him. If God has given you certain gifts, then He wants you to use them in His service. If God is calling you into a certain ministry role, then He will equip you. There is nothing to be afraid of when we respond to God's invitation to serve Him even if we wonder: "Why Me, Lord?"

1. What ministry role(s) are you currently fulfilling at Trinity Church? Within the community?
2. How did you discern these were the places God wanted you to serve?
3. Have you ever asked God the "Why Me, Lord?" question in response to His invitation for you to serve Him in some way?
4. Have you ever been asked to serve in the church and declined the invitation? What were your reasons for saying "no"?
5. What ministry roles are you avoiding OR "running" from?
6. Do you believe you are too busy to serve God in His church? If so, in what ways will your priorities need to change?
7. How does the Holy Spirit prepare you for the ministry role(s) God wants you to fulfill?

Prepared on: Monday, May 26, 2008
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