



*“The power to inspire is rare. Moments like this are rare. You think you may not be ready, that you’ll do it at a more convenient time. The time chooses you. Either you seize what may turn out to be the only chance you have, or you decide you’re willing to live with the knowledge that the chance has passed you by.” (Sen. Ted Kennedy to then-Sen. Barack Obama on whether the latter should run for President in 2008.)*

Should I go back to school to get that degree? Is it the right time to start a family? Is he or she the right person for me? Should I take that job offer that would require me to relocate? Can I retire? What is the best way to care for my aging parent? Do I continue with treatment, or make the most of the time I have left?

These are potentially life-changing questions. I’m sure you could add more, questions that you have personally had to address in your own lives. If I could add my own they would likely revolve around discerning a sense of God’s call to ministry at a particular place and time. The point is that we’ve all found ourselves at particular moments in time filled with opportunities that might not come our way again. The gravity of such decisions is heavy with consequence.

At those moments in my own life I’ve often thought of how Jesus called his disciples to join him.

For example: *As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” **Immediately** they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father mending their nets, and he called them. **Immediately** they left the boat and their father, and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-22)*

I bolded the word **immediately** to make a point. These four fishermen didn’t take any time to think about following Jesus. There was no discussion about what might happen to the family business if they were to take a leave of absence. If they were married, they didn’t go home to talk it over with their spouses, nor did they discuss it with their father. In fact, James and John left the business in their father’s lap. Now, it may seem like these fishermen made a totally irrational decision. As far as we can tell they hadn’t met Jesus prior to their encounter at the seashore. We are left to assume that in that specific instant they saw something in Jesus that caused them to recognize they were experiencing one of those rare occasions that Senator Kennedy was talking about when “time chooses you,” and you have no choice but to seize the moment.

I wonder if those “time chooses you” moments are really “Jesus chooses you” moments. That is, when Jesus is directly involved and setting you on a path that is imperative for you to follow at that particular time in your life. Like the original disciples who took a leap of faith, you might not be able to see all the pieces of the puzzle. That’s okay. Just knowing that Jesus is the one doing the prodding can be enough.

What have been the “Jesus chooses you” moments in your life? How have they led to a deeper faith in the one who does the choosing?

Pastor Chuck

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for making yourself known in the important intersections of our lives. Help us to keep looking for you so we don’t miss any of those times when you are choosing us for some new adventure for the sake of the Gospel. Amen