
Intro

- Life's little ironies

Calling List

- Some of what we are is life's experiences

You're in the living room with the Bishop/Counselor/Stake President/Counselor

- How did this situation arise?
 - Prior to the arrival we may have thoughts like
 - What now?
 - Why me?
 - I don't want a new calling.
 - Let's talk about these thoughts for a minute...
 - Unique - Volunteer organization on one hand
 - God's kingdom is organized in such a way that you and I are needed.
 - Could it be done by professionals instead? Sure - but its not.
 - You and I are needed to serve
 - When did I volunteer my service as Scoutmaster or primary teacher?
 - You could argue at Baptism When we took upon us the name of Christ.
 - Serve one another
 - In the pre-existence
 - Re-affirm that commitment every week.
 - So here we are with the Bishop in my house discussing my work in this Volunteer organization - This is not like any job interview I've had.
 - Bishop didn't announce he has a new opening with great pay benefits and asks for resumes of interested parties.
 - We don't fill out resumes and give them to the bishop because we think so and so is not doing a good job and we feel we could do better, or because I would rather do that calling than my current one.
 - We don't negotiate time of service and have buyout contracts.
 - So her I am with the Bishop in my house. Am I getting this calling because I sought after this calling?
 - No - callings Inspiration not aspiration
 - John 15:16 - Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.
 - President J. Ruben Clark in April conference 1959 said: " In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines."
 - 2 Tim. 1:9 God called not our works.
 - It is dangerous for any of us to think we have earned the right to a Church calling.
 - Am I seeking because of honor and glory?

Honor of Position

- While there is Honor and maybe you could argue Glory, I'm not so sure, it is definitely not the same honor and glory that the world seeks or defines.
- We should honor, respect and support people in their positions in the church.
 - Those in authority over us.
 - Prophet, Bishop
 - Why, Because of the position.
 - Can honor the individual.
 - Without respect for authority chaos reigns. "My house is a house of order"
- President J. Ruben Clark in April conference 1959 said: "In the service of the Lord it is not where you serve, but how. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines."
- We shouldn't seek the honor or glory but rather we should seek to serve.
 - Satan sought the honor and glory.
 - Seeking honor or power is something taught of the world.
 - Christ sought the will of the Father and gave him the honor and glory.
 - Think of President Kimball or President Hinkley or Bishop Gale.
 - I am convinced Bishop Gale does not spend the time he does for the glory or the honor or certainly not for the money.
 - He serves because he loves his heavenly father and he loves us.
 - An experiences of mine
 - Ward split - my amazement.
 - Lord trains us.
 - The pay is the same - in blessings not money.

How do callings come about.

- There is a need.
 - A calling becomes vacant.
 - There is a need on your part
- How - It is filled by revelation.
 - We have no doubt that the prophet or the Bishop is called by revelation then why not you and I into our callings.
 - God is no respecter of persons
 - The Apostle Paul taught that all the parts of the body (organization) are important (1 Cor 12:14-30)
 - Does that mean the Bishop closes his eyes and the name appears right before him all the time.
 - Just like the revelation to the prophet or to you receive regarding yourself varies in the method received so does choosing on callings.
- On the ward level the choosing of the person to fill the calling is like other revelation.
 - What is the will of the Lord is over-riding.
 - The need is studied and understood
 - What are the requirements of the calling
 - Time commitment
 - When do you do it etc.
 - Sometimes direct revelation is received at this point as to who?
 - Generally input as to who might do well in the calling is sought.
 - From the organization in question
 - Counselors counsel
 - Discussion is had and decision is reached.
 - Sometimes over a matter of weeks, sometimes right on the spot.
 - Worthiness
 - Sometimes is not someone from the “qualified” list.
 - Sometimes it is not the best qualified person.
 - The most knowledgeable person is not necessarily the right person at that time for the job.
 - The decision is taken to the Lord in prayer.
 - Proper people are notified
 - Release of person
 - Organization
 - Person is extended the calling.
 - For calling of counselors to a president a similar process is followed.
 - Presidents should never discuss with potential counselors. Only to Bishop or appropriate authority.
 - Worthiness
 - I have served in a Bishopric with Bishop Gale.
 - Testimony of him.
- President Monson in Sweden.
 - New Stake
 - Long list prepared with people lined up for interviews
 - Then a different scramble
 - Interesting and inspiring to see an Apostle at work

Accepting a calling

- It's my choice
 - Nobody is going to force me to accept this calling.
 - Saying no - What am I really saying?
 - "Lord, I'll do anything you ask, just don't ask me to do that?"
 - Sometimes we think there are reasons why we should say no. What should we do in that case?
 - First ask - What are your reasons?
 - Are they reasons or excuses?
 - Think of Moses.
 - They won't believe me
 - I am not eloquent
 - Can't - Is anything too hard for the Lord
 - The Lord is asking me to do this.
 - Sometimes there is information you have others may not.
 - Provide that information
 - Given that if you want me to serve I will.
 - Remember the Lord looks at our hearts and what is in them.
 - Sometimes I think we are extended callings for a variety of reasons even though we may not be able to fill the calling. May not be apparent for some time.
 - Rod Barnes.
 - Can someone else do the calling.
 - The Lord's kingdom will go forth with or without any one individual.
 - Probably someone else could do it. Maybe they have better qualifications but it is you the Lord wants.
 - What if a missionary doesn't go?
 - Saying Yes - "We must come to know the sacred nature of our callings."
 - We can receive assurance from the Lord that we are called of him.
 - Serve with all our might, mind and strength.
 - Parable of the sons in the Vineyard (Mat 21:28-31)
 - One said he wouldn't then repented
 - One said he would and didn't.
 - Just because I say yes will it be easy?
 - What was Timothy to expect? 2 Tim. 1:8
 - Not necessarily, but it will be possible.

Releases from our callings

Several aspects of callings and releases:

- Why we have new callings:
 - Growth of the church requires change creating new opportunities for us to serve.
 - At some point my talents may be need somewhere else besides scoutmaster.
 - Our growth sometimes requires change from the position I'm in.
 - I may have talents that need to grow.
 - Let go of the comfortable and do the uncomfortable.
 - Someone else's growth requires change from the position I'm in.
 - Someone else may need to be scoutmaster.
 - Someone else may need me to be in a different position to be of service to them.
 - As I look down the list of my callings I can see all these things in retrospect in the various callings.
- We don't release ourselves
 - We don't set time limits on our callings.
 - Bishop I've done this scoutmaster gig for ...
 - As far as I know missionary callings are the only ones with fixed time of service.
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- We accept releases when they come.
 - Sometimes it is difficult for us to "give up" one calling to serve in another that we might perceive as not as desirable for one reason or another.
 - We should view a release in the same light as a call to serve.
 - Support the person who will be taking your place.

Fulfilling our callings

- Not where but how
 - President J. Ruben Clark in April conference 1959 said: "In the service of the Lord it is not where you serve, but how"
 - "Rescued" from the nursery - my thoughts on the bad and the good.
 - Struggled with call at first.
 - Used to being "Where it was at"
 - Came to love the calling
 - "Wasted" talents
 - First I had better not have wasted my talents because I was wishing to do something else - that would be tragic.
 - Don't tell that to the parents of these young children.
 - "Man teacher"
 - I was maybe 25 years old.
 - I loved it!
 - Blessed
 - More comfortable with my own little ones
 - Family night songs
 - Grateful to the Bishop.
- Bless others and grow ourselves
 - Look back at the list of my callings:
 - Lives blessed because of my efforts
 - Every one made me grow and prepared for other things
 - My family - like the nursery calling.
 - Stake mission as a youth.
- It was so easy as a missionary to ask and answer - "am I doing all I can do to serve with all my heart, mind and strength?"
 - What's my answer today?
 - We each need to think of that?
- My current calling
 - I know I am not perfect at my calling
 - Mine is like yours - parts are hard, parts are easy
 - Why do I do it and love it
 - Not because I am a lover of the outdoors.
 - To me it is a bonus
 - Why is it I find myself on a Saturday up in the mountains somewhere, dressed head to foot in cammo gear, sneaking through the woods in the rain trying to ambush some 12 and thirteen year old boys in a capture the flag game?
 - Why am I taking several weeks of vacation this year to be on outings with the Deacons and all the other hours this calling takes and not begrudge any of it?
 - Its because I love them and desire to serve them in whatever ways I can.

Close

List of callings

Youth

- Deacons
- Teachers
- Priests
- Stake Missionary

Elder's Q in College

Missionary

In College

- Primary Teacher
- SS teacher
- Elders Q presidency

Reedville

- Nursery
- Stake Missionary

Brookwood

- SS teacher
- Elders Q counselor
- Elders Q president
- Bishopric 2nd counselor
- High Council

Colorado Springs 13th

- SS teacher
- HP secretary
- Explorer Advisor

Cooper Mt.

- SS teacher
- Bishopric 2nd and 1st counselor Bishop Piper
- Scoutmaster