

LIVING UNDERAPPRECIATED WITH A CALLING OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE

We are called to be people of God. Our attention should be on our relationship with God and living out our calling, whether appreciated or underappreciated.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The term “calling” in the New Testament relates to the invitation from God for humanity to accept salvation in His kingdom through Jesus Christ. The invitation is given outwardly by the preaching of the gospel and inwardly by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ We are called to be Christians, the people of God. We are called to be in relationship with God to reflect His love in our lives (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- ❖ The calling of God comes with purpose.
- ❖ In Genesis 37, Joseph received an invitation from God to enter into a relationship of trust, so that God could use him to accomplish His purpose.
- ❖ Joseph’s relationship with his brothers had been impacted by their father Jacob’s favouring of Joseph.
- ❖ Jacob gave Joseph a special gift – a beautiful robe – because Jacob loved him more than his other children, since Joseph was born to him in his old age.
- ❖ But the favour Jacob showed to his son Joseph wasn’t the problem. The problem was that Joseph’s brothers understood Jacob’s favour to mean that he loved Joseph more than them.
- ❖ Joseph wasn’t perfect; he would tell his father all the bad things his brothers did. (Yes, he was a tattle-tale.) However, the favour that Joseph received from his father was not of his doing; his father just blessed him because he loved him.
- ❖ The Bible tells us that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). In other words, none of us is perfect. But God still bestows His grace upon us. God still blesses our lives with His favour even though we do not deserve it.
- ❖ For some of us, the blessing of God in our lives may create tension in some relationships and interactions.
- ❖ There potentially are people that will not celebrate the blessings of God that we receive. They interpret our blessing to mean that they are not favoured by God because they didn’t receive the same things.
- ❖ This could be a contributor to some of us being underappreciated – not valued or appreciated highly enough – while living with the calling of God.
- ❖ There may be a lack of gratitude – no “thank you”s – or people may make negative comments about us.
- ❖ It may be difficult for some people to appreciate when we speak in faith about the call of God on our lives, because the purpose of God is envisioned by faith and not by sight.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 37:3 - 11 NLT

- ❖ There are times when being appreciated is not an unreasonable expectation.
- ❖ Luke 17:12-19 records a story in which ten men with a skin disease (leprosy) ask Jesus for healing.
- ❖ Jesus tells the men to go and show themselves to the priest, which was part of the validation process to confirm healing from this disease.
- ❖ On the way to the priest the ten men notice they are healed; however only one returns to say "thank you." Now *that* is underappreciation!
- ❖ Jesus asked about the others who were healed. In other words, Jesus expected appreciation.
- ❖ The reality is that the calling of God on our lives sometimes results in us living underappreciated. So, how do we continue to live out God's calling when we experience being underappreciated?
- ❖ The calling of God is a high calling (Philippians 3:14). It is a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1), and it doesn’t change (Romans 11:29).
- ❖ The way to fight the experience of being underappreciated is to focus on our relationship with God, knowing by faith that He wants to use us to demonstrate His love.
- ❖ This may be why in a moment of extreme underappreciation Jesus could say, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34 NLT).
- ❖ Jesus’ focus wasn’t on the responses of the people – they worshiped Him when He entered into Jerusalem one week and cried, "Crucify him!" a week later.
- ❖ Jesus’ attention was given to His relationship with the Father and the fulfilment of the call of God on His life, which resulted in salvation being extended to every person in the entire world.
- ❖ Like Jesus, we need to focus on our relationship with God and live out our calling regardless of being appreciated or underappreciated.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Describe a time when you experienced being/feeling underappreciated when serving God.
2. Discuss the impact of favouritism in the church.
3. Why is faith so important when a believer is trying to live out the calling of God on their life?
4. List and discuss two ways we can continue to live out the calling of God when experiencing underappreciation.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to focus my attention on You, whether I am being appreciated or not. Amen.

Start-up: What is your "love language" or the things that make you feel most appreciated?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🧠 (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

*Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*