

Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday – February 6, 2022

Hi, for those of you who don't know me, my name is Mykala. I am a student at CSU, and I am involved in the Lutheran Campus Ministry there. I am also LuMin's Congregational Ambassador, so if you ever have any questions about the Ministry, feel free to ask! Today is LCM Sunday, meaning that we have students preaching at each of the local congregations in Fort Collins and Loveland this weekend. So thank you for being here and listening to me speak about Jesus' first disciples.

So how about those disciples? What an amazing thing to be chosen by Jesus himself to directly learn from him and follow him around as he goes around performing miracles. In those times it was no ordinary thing to be chosen to be as the disciple of a rabbi even if he wasn't Jesus. Without the hindsight of knowing the whole resurrection story and knowing that we all are chosen, I would never expect to be chosen. I'm way too ordinary for that. I'm just a college kid still trying to figure out my place in this world. Six years in and I'm still working on it. Yup that's right: I have been in undergrad for six years now and I still have 3 semesters to go.

When I was graduating high school, I decided to Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction to study kinesiology. I thought I wanted to be a chiropractor or physical therapist. Of course I only thought this because I had been playing volleyball for 5 years straight, and that was my whole life at that point. But it was at CMU that Brad Abbott convinced me to work at Sky Ranch Lutheran camp. Not only was that the best summer of my life, it also quite literally changed my life. One day in the middle of my first summer, I was helping a cabin of middle school boys do a volunteer project of picking up slash in the woods on property. It's a job that always needs to be done at camp. There's always going to be branches and logs to gather into piles to be used as firewood. Well about halfway through, those boys had found a thin tree that had fallen down but was still stuck to the ground by the roots. Their adult sponsor and I tried and tried to get them to focus on the stuff that was actually gatherable, but to no avail. You know how those middle schoolers can be; they're determined. So after about half an hour of watching them twist and push and pull, I finally grabbed a large rock, set it at the base and leveraged that thing right out of the ground. And as they dragged the tree to the pile, the sponsor looked at me and said "Wow are you an engineer?" and I said "No... maybe I should be..." And it was on my mind for the rest of the summer.

It's such a simple short moment. I doubt that sponsor even remembers me, much less that single question that she asked me. But now it makes so much sense. My dad, grandpa, uncle and cousin are all engineers. I like solving problems, I love that logical, algorithmic way of thinking. And so I switched my major and came to CSU to study Biomedical & Mechanical Engineering.

So... What does this have to do with fishing? Jesus didn't go and find renowned scholars who had been studying the holy texts in preparation to be chosen by a rabbi to be a disciple. He didn't go to those fishermen and say "Hey come with me and help preach those holy texts that you obviously know nothing about because you are fishermen and not scholars." He went to Simon, James and John and said, "From now on you will be catching people... From now on you will be doing something that you already know how to do and just apply what you know in a different way."

Whether it was divine intervention or not that made that adult sponsor ask me that simple question on the mountain that day. I knew something was telling me, "Wait, hold on. Yes, you love human anatomy, but you know you don't want to be a chiropractor. Apply what you know in a different way." And I have. Here I am, being my ordinary little self, studying for way longer, than I ever expected so that I can use what I know and learn to help people. Last summer I had the amazing opportunity to go to Ecuador to help build prosthetics for 17 different people who at one point thought they would never be able to walk again. Last week we were putting up new lights in Lumin's newly renovated chapel and we were trying to figure out the system to control them - which is way more complicated than I thought. But I noticed the similarities between it and my coding classes and electrical circuit classes and applied my knowledge in a new way and figured it out. Thank goodness for Luke chapter 5, for showing us that people that are ordinary, tired fishermen are the people that Jesus calls to follow him. Thanks to Luke chapter 5, I know that each of us has our own special talents, skills and knowledge however ordinary they may be that make us capable of continuing the apostleship of carrying out the love and healing that Jesus called us to.

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