

The Gospel According to Matthew

Clear on Vocation?

October 24, 2021

Matthew 12:15-21

15 When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, 16 and he ordered them not to make him known. 17 This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

18 "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. 20 He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. 21 And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

A conversation about "vocation"

From Latin "vocare" which means "to call".

A question of "Why?"

Why am I a freshman at Helena Capital?

Why am I here?

Why am I a husband?

Etc. etc.

Why am I a barista?

What if Matthew wants to speak to both the bigger picture vocation and the smaller?

Victor Frankl:
What do I want from life? What can I do to make myself happy? are the wrong questions. The real question is, "What is my life asking of me?"

How do you find your vocation?

What if that's what Matthew is up to in this story?

First, look at verse 14:
"But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him."

What if finding our vocation in Jesus starts with understanding Jesus vocation?

What if that's what being an apprentice of Jesus is all about?

First of 10x:
Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 21:35, 38, 39; 22:6; 23:34, 37; 24:9; 26:4

What was Jesus response?

Quit?, Cower?, Lash Out?

When did the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 40-55 become his framing Narrative?

Why was Jesus able to keep doing what he had been doing?

v.15

Self-giving love?

"At the beginning it involves a choice - choosing this or that vocation. But 99.9 percent of the time it means choosing what one has one has already chosen....all commitment is really recommitment. It's saying yes to the thing you've already said yes to." _ David Brooks (127)

What was Jesus vocation?

What if all Christ-followers are called to Jesus vocation, especially the bigger picture of self-giving love?

"It's not what's the purpose of my life, it's what's the purpose that's been assigned."
_ David Brooks

How do you translate that to the specificity of your life?

Book: *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks

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