

Introduction:

1. “You’ll never guess who called the other day!”
 - a. Have you ever been surprised by a phone call from someone that was completely unexpected? We all have. Maybe it’s a friend we haven’t heard from in a long time. Maybe it was someone important that we had never talked to.
 - b. A phone call like this is one that is out of the ordinary. It cannot be from someone I talk to all the time. What if the call was from someone like Kris Allen (American Idol winner)? Don’t expect to get that call.
2. But someone more important than that did call the other day. In fact, that person has called several times. He may have been calling you.
 - a. And if you have a cell phone like mine, you have a button that says “Ignore.” Did you push the ignore button when this call came in?
 - b. Your phone also has a button that turns the ringer off. Has your ringer been off when this person tried to call?
 - c. Or, when this person called, did He just get a busy signal from you?
 - d. But let’s back up a step because this person didn’t call you on your cell. But He still called. It was God who called; and He was calling you; did you answer?

The Lesson:

I. How does God call you?

- A. Now, I have to explain how God makes His calls.
 1. He doesn’t use a cell phone or a land line, but He could if He wanted. He is all-powerful.
 2. He doesn’t text you on your handheld device—but He does text, and does a lot of text!
- B. God calls you by the gospel. This is His text message to you and to the whole world!
 1. Indeed, the gospel call comes to us in the form of text, 2 Thessalonians 2:14.
 2. The call of the gospel is not a private call. God is calling *every one* of us in exactly the same way, Acts 2:39. The fact that this verse is worded the way it is makes it clear that the call is to each of us. It makes no difference if one is a Gentile or a Jew, young or old, black or white. The call is the same.
 3. God has one means to call everybody, Romans 1:16. The gospel is the power connection from God to you. The gospel is the means God uses to call you—and He doesn’t use any other means.
- C. But, someone says, “My friend said God personally spoke to her and called her to follow Him.”
 1. We hear things like that all the time, but people are confused about that. There is no place in the Bible where God says He is going to personally call people. What we do find in the Bible is that God tells us how He calls people. He calls us by the gospel.
 2. So, be confident in what God says and know that when people say God has personally called them, that they are mistaken.
 3. But another mistake people make is in not answering the call God does make in the gospel. I hope you are not making that mistake.

II. Why does God call you?

- A. He calls you to save you. It was “for salvation,” 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.
- B. The reason God calls you for salvation is because of sin.
 1. You were not born guilty of sin. Every child is born sinlessly pure.
 2. We become sinners, not by being born, but by making bad choices. When, knowing right from wrong, we choose to violate God’s will, we become sinners, Romans 3:23.
 3. Sin, for a 14-year-old has the same consequences as for a 40-year-old in that it produces a separation from God, Isaiah 59:1-2.
- C. Thus, young people who have sinned have the same needs as old people who have sinned. They need a Savior, Luke 19:10. The Savior calls young people by the gospel.
 1. The same gospel that God uses to call older folks, He uses to call younger folks, 2 Thessalonians 2:14. There are not different gospels for different ages!

2. Some older Christians insult younger people by saying that the gospel will not convert them and will not keep them close to the Lord. Instead they think we can reach young folks only by fun and games. To them, they think the gospel for young people is about parties and pizzas. They think young people love Little Caesar's more than they love the Lord Jesus. I disagree with the assessment that some make of young Christians. Many young Christians have a love for the Lord that is as great as any found in older saints.
- D. God calls young people to salvation; He does it by means of a powerful gospel, Romans 1:16.

III. What does God call you to do?

- A. He calls you to right living after salvation. Hear what Paul wrote to young Timothy, 1 Timothy 4:12. Paul exhorted this young man to be a model of what a Christian should be.
1. If Timothy conducted himself in a right way, then no one should think less of him because he was young. Sometimes older people despise those who are young. They look down on them. Something is wrong with people when they do that.
 2. If anyone despised Timothy, it would only be because there was something wrong with the person who looked at Timothy, not with Timothy. Let it be so with you also!
- B. Here are six areas where Timothy was called to be a good example:
1. In Word. This is the way you talk. Every young Christian should have pure speech. Don't curse; don't take God's name in vain; don't tell dirty jokes. Purity of speech means you speak things that help others. Ephesians 4:29.
 2. In Conduct. This is the way you act, your manner of life. God wants your conduct to be honorable. That means you avoid the works of the flesh and you demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:19-24.
 3. In Love. This is the way you treat others, Matthew 22:39. The qualities of love are listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. These are qualities that make you a noble person.
 4. In Spirit. This is the way you see life. This word has to do with your attitude, your disposition toward God, toward others and toward life itself. Serve God with the spirit expressed in Romans 8:15. You live with the disposition of a child who is loved by his Father. Don't see God as your enemy or as a slave master. See Him as your Father. It will make a huge difference in how you live your life.
 5. In Faith. This is the way you trust God. This is more than just believing. It has to do with your confidence in God. Trust Him that He will help you in the trials of life. Trust that by doing His will, He will guide and lead you in life. Show your faith to others by your obedience to Jesus Christ.
 6. In Purity. This is the way you think. When your thinking—your heart—is pure, then you will keep your body pure. Proverbs 4:23. Moral problems don't begin with our bodies, but with our minds. The devil wants to fill your mind with impure thoughts. It is a battle that he will wage against you until you die, so get used to it! Through Christ you can overcome.
- C. We typically think of older Christians setting an example. But this is for younger Christians. God calls you as a young person because He intends to use your life to influence others!

Conclusion:

1. When you, as a young person answer the call of the gospel, you are called by God just as surely as if the Lord Himself had personally appeared and called your name!
 - a. The call of God through the gospel is just as real as a call on your cell, though the means of making the call is different.
 - b. God's text to you in the New Testament is just as real as a text you receive on your cell. It is in a different form, but it is just as real and more powerful (Romans 1:16).
2. "You'll never guess who called the other day!" It was the Lord. And He is still calling today. Do you need to answer His call? You do that by means of faith, repentance and baptism.