



Wednesday Prayer

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – Who is God Calling?

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Matthew 9:9-13

Friends, God is calling you. You might already be pursuing or fulfilling your calling, or you might be wondering “How do I know what that calling is?”, or you might even be thinking “I don’t have the time or energy to follow.”

Cleophus J. LaRue, in this week’s Working Preacher commentary, states, “*Jesus typically calls busy folks.*” And regular folks. And sinners. I’m always curious when reading about Jesus calling the disciples. These stories are followed by “And he got up and followed him.” There’s not a long discerning process, there’s not a checking in with the family, there’s no mention of checking on personal finances first. They just followed.

Last week, our Wednesday Prayer writer Meg Corrigan wrote about “just being” and a calling she has felt in her senior years to be a stronghold for kids, to be a wise, safe, honest, transparent and caring adult grounded in their faith and years of living.

My calling to take on this role as director of Cherish All Children came six years ago around this time when the board was determining future steps for the organization. I had been wondering what my next calling would be and was listening for the Spirit’s call. It wasn’t easy, as that first year was filled with significant learning and growing into my role. I did know I felt passionately about the churches role in this work to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. I didn’t want to see the good work of Founding Director Amy Hartman and so many others come to an end. So I took a leap of faith and followed.

So many of you have followed in your own way – praying regularly for children and this ministry, being a stronghold for children and youth in your families and faith communities, advocating for legislation to prevent exploitation and trafficking and provide support for survivors. Thank you for the ways you have followed Jesus’ call.

**Jesus you extend your call to us each day, that we may be the stronghold for children.
May we continue to follow in your name, Amen.**

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.