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A Note From The President Of LCMI

Anointed and Appointed

I recently completed a major season of change in my life. I deeply felt that sense of transition, and I asked myself some very important questions about my vocation as a pastor, a teacher, and an administrator: “What is my calling?”, “What is the anointing for this calling?”, and “Where is God’s appointment to fulfill this calling?”. As I wrestled with these questions, I could not help but think of their universality in every ministry situation and the necessity to review them from time to time.

Calling is different than opportunity. Sometimes Christians have a circumstantial faith and make decisions on “open door” opportunities or by leveraging different relationships to get what they want. But we are called to live by faith and not by sight (or circumstances) (2 Cor. 5:7), to strive for our high calling in Christ (Hebrews 3:1), and to complete the work that God has prepared for us before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 2:10). We are to be people of destiny, who don’t live according to who we used to be, but according to what God wants us to become (Ephesians 4:1).

Being anointed is not being skilled at a task, although skill is a byproduct of anointing. I’ve heard people rave about certain ministers’ “anointing” because they are so “inspirational”. May I suggest that inspiration is not anointing. There are a lot of “inspirational” speakers in the world that are not inspired or anointed by God. Being anointed involves God’s ordaining power to fulfill your calling, your divine purpose. This might mean that an anointed person may not be “inspirational”.

Micaiah, the Old Testament prophet, knew the difference between anointing and an emotional response to an opportunity. Even though Jehoshaphat did not like what Micaiah said (1 Kings 22:18), there was no denying that God anointed Micaiah in his calling, even though Micaiah’s message certainly would not be considered inspirational. We need to learn that anointing is God’s sovereign confirmation within a Christian leader that is independent of what others say about your ministry. In fact, it is the very confidence that carries the Christian leader in times of public critique.

Appointment is where your calling and anointing is expressed. There are many in the body of Christ who realize their calling and anointing but are missing their appointment. These are the people that come into a local church with a clear call on their lives, but want to change everything about it. They try to minister, but are never satisfied with results. There have been times that I have been asked to minister somewhere, and no matter how many compliments I would get, I did not feel like I was very successful. The reality was, it was not my appointment. Although I was capable of ministering at that particular place, there was no conviction that this was a place for me, even though I felt very loved by the people.

Have you ever felt that way? Do you feel like your calling and your anointing are not accomplishing their intended purpose? Have you felt unsure about your calling, especially if the tide of popular opinion changes? Or perhaps you are in a position where you feel like a hireling, simply carrying out the tasks you are asked to do. Let me encourage you to ask these questions: What is my calling, and is this currently my primary focus? Has God anointed me at this time to serve Him in my calling?
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What group of people has God prepared to benefit the most from my expressed calling and anointing? It takes a brave leader to ask these questions. “But be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, [our] God, is with you” (1 Chron. 28:20)

As you step out for God, remember that He will most often call you to positions and platforms beyond your natural ability. Then when Christ is able to use you, you will know it is all Him! He delights to use the weak things of this world to confound the wise. That's the mystery of His kingdom.

I am reminded of the parable of the mustard seed. A tiny seed becomes a huge plant that takes over the garden (Mark 4:30-32). That simple story is a picture of what God wants to do in the world through you! You may feel inadequate and ill-equipped, unqualified and unworthy. Great! You're just the type of person God delights to use.

This year, let us:

1. Step out of our comfort zone and take a risk on behalf of the Kingdom.
2. Dare to believe that God wants to use you!
3. Pray that God will show you specific ways that you can be like the mustard seed in your neighborhood, community, and beyond--for His glory.

May your calling be sure, your anointing be strong, and your appointment be right - Amen.

Timothy Dailey
Bishop and President of LCM

Leadership Quote

According to Scripture, virtually everything that truly qualifies a person for leadership is directly related to character. It's not about style, status, personal charisma, clout, or worldly measurements of success. Integrity is the main issue that makes the difference between a good leader and a bad one.

John MacArthur

Powerful Leadership Lessons from Bible Characters

The depth of character within the people of the Biblical stories is astounding. They faced great challenges and overcame them with faith and endurance. For leaders today, there is much to learn from these ordinary people who made decisions that transformed them into extraordinary legends. We are in desperate need of that level of conviction and determination in leaders today. The characters of the Bible can teach us a great deal.

1. Noah: Leaders do what's right even if they are alone

In Genesis 6, God is despairing over the wickedness that has overtaken humanity. Reluctantly, he decides to wipe out the human race and start from scratch. Noah, however, is the only one who has not been corrupted. You know the story. God tells him to build an ark that will save him, his family, and a whole host of animal life. As he is boarding the ark, God says to him, “for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.” Literally the whole world was doing what was wrong. But did that deter Noah from doing what was right? Not a chance!

2. Abraham: Leaders embrace the unknown

God approaches Abraham in Genesis 12 and tells him to “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you.” In other words, Abraham is instructed to leave his comfort zone and march onward into uncertainty. Great leaders embrace that uncertainty, because they know the truth: the Promised Land awaits them on the other side.

3. Joseph: Leaders endure in spite of circumstances

The story of Joseph beginning in Genesis 37 is powerful. The guy had a pretty tough life. His jealous brothers sold him into slavery. His father was told that a wild animal killed him. He was framed by his boss's wife because he refused to sleep with her and was thrown into prison. He interpreted the dream of a prisoner who was released and restored to his position, but the guy forgot about him. In the end, though, Joseph became the leader of all Egypt--second only to the Pharaoh himself. When there is a famine, he is then able to save his family from starvation. He tells his brothers when he sees them again that, though they meant harm, God orchestrated the events to put Joseph in a position to save them. Leaders have a vision that sustains them through difficult times.

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4. Moses: Leaders stick up for their people

Yes, it's true. God has to be very convincing in order to get Moses to take action in Exodus 3. He at first gives excuse after excuse as to why he isn't the right guy for the job. When he finally does answer his calling, Moses approaches Pharaoh and boldly passes on the iconic message: "Let my people go." The Israelites, Moses' native people, had been enslaved by Egypt and Moses was the one enlisted to lead them to freedom. When the time came, Moses was willing to step up and lead.

I will give you more leadership lessons that we can learn from the different Bible characters in our next edition of our "Connect" newsletter. Don't miss these, and make sure you share them with the leaders that you are discipling.

Coming Soon!

Bishop Tim Dailey's new Podcast entitled

"Leadership Stuff"

We will be announcing very soon where you can listen to these practical and insightful teachings, personal interviews with effective leaders, and discussions of issues that every pastor, minister, and Christian leader faces.

Plan now to listen to "Leadership Stuff" - our new podcast dedicated to LCMI and LCC pastors, ministers, and leaders. We pray that these podcasts will bring encouragement, counsel, and spiritual insight to those who are on the frontlines serving our Lord and His people.

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Visit our new LCMI website

We have gone public! However, we are still in the process of making some changes and adding new features. We want this to be a connecting point for our LCC congregations and network of churches. Check back often for training videos, announcements, new material, etc.

This is just one more way that we want to stay connected as a "FRAMILY".

lcmnetwork.com