



Proclaiming (Luke 24:44-49)

I. INTRO

- A. Luciano Pavarotti was a great contemporary Italian tenor opera singer (who died in 2007). (I'm not sure he was as good as Enrico Caruso but, then again, I'm biased 😊).
1. In his younger years he pursued private singing lessons AND he attended a teacher's college. Upon graduation he asked his father's advice about his future – "Should I sing or teach?"
 2. This is what Pavarotti's father said, "If you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair."
 3. Later in life here's what Pavarotti said, "I chose one chair. It took seven years of study and frustration before I made my first professional appearance. It took another seven years to reach the Metropolitan Opera...Whatever we choose--we should give ourselves to it. We need to choose one chair."
- B. Today I'd like to talk to you about choosing one chair.
- C. So, please turn with me to Luke 24:44-49. I'll read it, pray, and then we'll seek to apprehend what Dr. Luke is saying: *"Now [Jesus] said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'* ⁴⁵ *Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,* ⁴⁶ *and He said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,* ⁴⁷ *and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* ⁴⁸ *You are witnesses of these things.* ⁴⁹ *And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.'"* --Luke 24:44-49

II. BODY

A. I see three highlights in these verses. The first two train us, teach us – and empower us to be about the third one. I will point them out as questions and then we will consider them one at a time...

1. **V. 44: How do we see Jesus in the Old Testament?**
2. **Vs. 45: How are our minds opened? (The first two fuel the third.)**
3. **Vs. 46-49: What is our calling?**

B. Let's look at them one at a time...

1. **V. 44: How do we see Jesus in the Old Testament?**

- a. *"Now [Jesus] said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.'"*
- b. What is Jesus saying? He's saying two things:
 - 1) "I've already told you this but you don't get it yet."
 - 2) "The Old Testament is really about Me."
- c. Let's lean into this second statement Jesus is making: The OT is really about Jesus. This, for some of you, will be a whole different way to view of the Bible. It can open up and energize your Bible reading.
- d. This is what is meant when we say we are "gospel-centered." Gospel centrality means that the good news of rescue and redemption is the central theme of the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation.
- e. God, our Creator, desires to have a relationship with us. There are 40 different authors who wrote the Bible over a period of 1,500 years and the central message throughout is consistent. Theologians have called this the "scarlet thread."
- f. Let me give you two quick examples of what to look for in reading and studying the OT:
 - 1) Think of all the sermons you've heard about David and Goliath. Most of the time the focus of the sermon is "Be like David..."

- a) The narrative is usually preached as: “The bigger they come, the harder they’ll fall, if you just go into your battles with faith in the Lord.” Or, “You may not be real big and powerful in yourself, but with God on your side, all things are possible and you can overcome the giants.”
- b) But as soon as we ask: “How does David show us Jesus?” We begin to see the same features of the text but in a different light:
 - i. The David/Goliath narrative is telling us that the Israelites are incapable of going up against Goliath. They need a substitute.
 - ii. When David goes to battle on their behalf, he is a vulnerable and seemingly weak figure. He goes virtually as a sacrificial lamb.
 - iii. But God uses David’s apparent weakness as the means to destroy the giant, and David becomes Israel’s champion-redeemer, so that his victory will be imputed (reckoned) to the whole nation. They get all the fruit of having fought the battle themselves.
 - iv. Jesus is the better David. This is what Jesus is talking about in Luke 24:44. The OT points to Jesus.
- 2) Some men on Wed mornings are studying the life of Joshua. So, let’s ask, “How does Joshua shows us Jesus?”
 - a) This is easier than David and Goliath...The word “Joshua” means, “Jehovah is Savior,” or “Jesus.” God's purpose for Israel was not only to deliver them out of Egypt but also to bring them **into** the land of promise.
 - b) Moses died before the Israelites entered the Promised Land. Why? Because Moses represented the Law.

- c) So it was Joshua, or "Jehovah is Savior," or "Jesus," who led them into the Promised Land. Get it?
- g. When we're reading the OT we need to continually ask of the text, How does this text, or narrative either...
 - 1) Point to the promise of redemption (the gospel)
 - 2) Point to the Person of Jesus.
- h. On Friday I posted a blog on the Pastor's Blog that further unpacks the gospel-centrality (scarlet thread) and, as a bonus, I tried to unpack the different literary genres of the Bible and added some pointers about interpreting them. It's the "Bible Literacy"¹ blog post.

2. Vs. 45: How are our minds opened?

- a. *"Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" -- Luke 24:45*
- b. Three things:
 - 1) First and foremost Jesus showed them the way to understand the Bible.² Our minds are opened by seeing, and looking for, Jesus in the OT. Luke is building a case.
 - 2) Our minds are opened by seeing that we never outgrow our need for the gospel. The gospel is necessary for both our salvation as well as our sanctification (set apart, transformation).
 - 3) The Holy Spirit awakens the eyes of our heart (Eph 1:18) to see and understand the Scriptures.
 - a) V. 49a alludes to this: *And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you.*
 - b) And you may remember that John addressed this in 1 John 2:27: *"As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a*

¹ <https://kingsharbor.wordpress.com/2016/09/16/bible-literacy/>

² R.C. Sproul. *Reformation Study Bible* notes.

*lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.” -
-1 John 2:27*

3. Vs. 46-49: What is our calling?

- a. Seeing Jesus in and throughout the OT and having our minds opened to see and need the gospel culminates in a joyful proclamation of the gospel.
- b. *“And [Jesus] said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’” --Luke 24:46-49*
- c. The first “you” is plural and is addressing EVERY Christian throughout history. The second “you” is addressing those 120 people that we read about in Acts 1.
- d. The first thing that needs to be said regarding our calling is that there is a difference between calling and career. Pavarotti limited his two chairs to career but the Bible doesn’t do that.
- e. I think Tim Keller sums it up well: “Our [career] can be a calling only if it is reconceived as God’s assignment to serve others.” -- Tim Keller³
 - 1) If we view our career as “God’s assignment to serve others” then we’ve successfully combined career and calling. (I think Keller’s correct.)
 - 2) Some of us are fortunate enough to clearly combine career and calling. And I would suggest that all of us **reconceive** our current job as God’s calling. (No such thing as retirement, only reassignment.)
 - 3) Everything from the stay at home mom, to the investment banker, to the engineer, to the window washer – if we view our current career as an assignment from God to serve others then we’ve successfully combined career and calling.

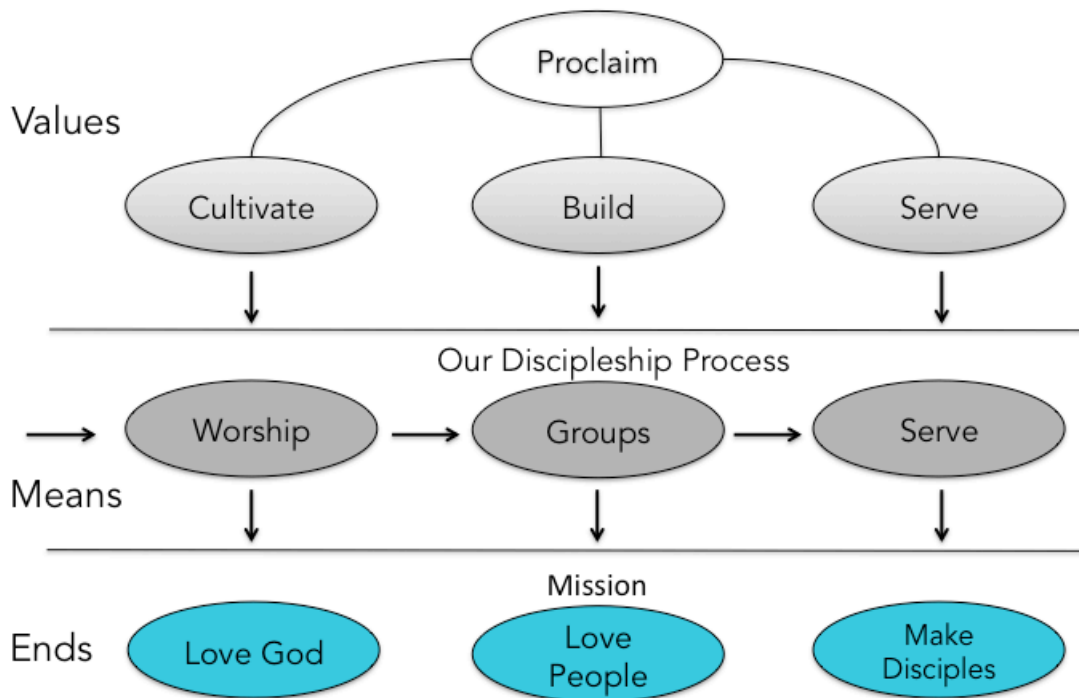
³ Tim Keller. *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*, Penguin 2014: 66.

- f. For the sake of a good and biblical theology, I want to suggest to you that every Christian has ONE primary calling and one secondary calling – no matter what our career is.
- 1) Our primary calling, that I would assert is biblical, is the first question and response of the Westminster Confession: The chief end of humankind is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. This is our primary calling – again, no matter what our career is.
 - 2) Our secondary calling is what Jesus stated in v. 47: *“And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed”*
 - 3) Our secondary calling is to, in grateful response to our primary calling, proclaim the good news of the gospel in deed and in words.
 - a) The Greek word is: *keṛussō* and means to be a herald or to proclaim.
 - b) Think of the proverbial town crier -- a person employed to make public announcements in the Town Square or marketplace.
- g. Think of this way: **Our primary calling, to glorify God and enjoy Him forever” is the goal/objective and the secondary calling, to proclaim the gospel, is the fruit, or the response.**
- 1) There is a quote that is often attributed to Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”
 - 2) Not only is that quote not biblical but there is no record of Francis ever saying it. Yet the essence of the quote is that we are to make sure that our deeds match our words...
- h. One of the main reasons we want to simplify as a church is to provide you with the time to invest in the unchurched friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers – so that you can proclaim the gospel to them in deed and, eventually, in words.
- i. Over the last 18-months we have reaffirmed our core values as a church and our mission statement. PROCLAIM is one of our reaffirmed core values. Here is the wording that is on our website:

1) **PROCLAIMING the good news of reconciliation with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to all people.**

2) There is also an expanded version on our website that I'd like you to see: The ultimate good news is found in the gospel, which is based solely on what God has done for us, not what we do for God. God has reconciled us to Himself through the sacrificial love of Jesus that was accomplished by His death and confirmed by His resurrection. We never outgrow our need for the gospel because it not only saves us but also sanctifies us through the active presence and power of the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, KHC is "gospel-centered" in our focus, seeking to identify and proclaim the good news of the gospel in all our teaching and preaching of God's word. Additionally, we seek to equip every believer to share the good news of the gospel with others in timely and effective ways. We also seek to train and release people into vocational ministry both locally and globally.

j. Here is a visual of what we are seeking to do:



III. CONCLUSION

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- A. I want to unabashedly promote the Rooted class that is launching on Tues Sept 27 AND Thur Sept 29 (with a Rooted curriculum for kids)
- B. I will close our time today by noting that we are not all called to be evangelists – BUT we are all called to PROCLAIM the gospel (i.e., evangelize in deed and word) -- as we receive the HS's power.
- C. You might say, “Well, I’m not a preacher or an evangelist – so I can’t PROCLAIM the gospel...”
1. *“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?” --Romans 10:14*
 2. I worked with a church about 15-years ago where the leaders actually said that to me: “You’re the preacher, you’re the one who is supposed to do that – not us...”
 - a. So, I thought about it for a while and I came back to them and said: “What if we changed the word for “preaching” or “evangelism” to “splash”?”
 - b. We are all called to splash the love of God onto people with our deeds and our words.
 - c. You might not see yourself as an evangelist, but if you know God – and love God, you will “splash” that love on the people that are part of your social sphere – or the people that you meet.
 - d. The idea is that we get so filled up with loving Jesus and loving people (all people) that when we bump into someone Jesus gets splashed onto them.
 3. There are several different “styles of splashing...”
 - a. **Confrontational** - Peter in Acts 2
 - b. **Intellectual** - *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis or *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell, that intellectually **prove** the existence of God.
 - c. **Come and Hear** - Jn.4, the woman at the well
 - d. **Servant** - *Conspiracy of Kindness*
 - e. **Relational** - Simply loving people where they're at because God does.

f. **Testimonial** - Jesus Christ changed my life

4. "One thing I know. **I was blind but now I see.**" Jn. 9:25 (NIV)

P.A.S.S. Questions For KHC Group Leaders

Sermon Dates: 9/17-18, 2016

Sermon Title: Simplify #2: Proclaiming

Sermon Passage: Luke 24:44-49

Group Leaders: Don't feel like you need to get through all the questions. Pick one participation question and 2-3 others. Also, feel free to adapt or ask your own questions. The main objective is to underscore the main points of the sermon in an interactive/dialogical way – and certainly leave room for prayer.

P - Participation (get everyone involved in the dialog)

1. Tell us about a season in your life when you were trying to do too much.
2. In the course of a normal week, about how many people do you interact with that are (probably) not Christians?

A - Application (makes it personal)

3. Why do you think it's more effective to listen to people before we attempt to share the gospel with them?
4. Could it actually be true that every Christian has the same primary and secondary calling?

S - Scripture (thinking biblically is a learned behavior! :-)

5. Is seeing Jesus and the gospel in the Old Testament in new perspective for you? How do you think it will change (or challenge) your Bible reading?
6. Read the expanded version of our value statement on Proclaiming⁴. What stands out to you?

S – Sharing (aim for a time of honest reflection, authenticity, and transparency in a safe atmosphere modeled by you). [Choose one of the following as a final dialogue question.]

7. As a group watch the video as a group watch the video together:
<https://vimeo.com/182350833>

⁴ <http://kingsharbor.org/core-values/>

8. Identify 2-3 people in your social sphere (first name only) that you would like to begin praying for more intentionally to know Jesus. Spend some time as a group praying for these people.