

Jesus Calls Us

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. 2Tim. 1:9; Mark 1:16-18

B. Few preachers' wives can write a hymn-to-order for their husbands, even if they are famous poets in their own right. But Cecil Frances Alexander did just that for her husband. One afternoon during the week of November 25, 1852, at the age of 29, she sat alone in the living room of the parsonage in Tyrone, Ireland, working over a new poem. When her husband inquired, she replied, "It is a new poem based on your sermon last Sunday morning." He looked surprised and said, "Honestly, dear, I didn't think you were paying attention. But it does help a congregation, even if it is only the preacher's wife."

Later that evening, Mr. Alexander said, "Next Sunday I plan to preach on the call of Andrew. Since you wrote about the burial of Moses after last Sunday's sermon, I wonder if you could write a poem for next Sunday morning before you hear the sermon." "I'll do what I can," she told him. He took a Bible and read to her the account of the calling of Andrew by Jesus as recorded in Mark 1:16-18. They discussed the coming sermon during supper, and she promised to do her best with the poem he requested. That night, before retiring, wrote down the stanzas which he was to read at the close of his sermon the following Sunday morning. It contained these lines

Jesus Calls Us

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store:
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil, and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,
Savior, make us hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

C. The call of the Lord goes out to all today:

1. The call to know Him
2. The call to follow Him
3. The call to live with Him

I. COME UNTO ME

- A. Matt. 11:28-30
- B. Rev. 22:17 - This invitation is universal, from all of the saved to all of the lost
- C. Rom. 12:1-2 - To examine, test, and prove to ourselves and all others that the way of the Lord is superior in every way
- D. Isa. 1:18 - Come let us reason together
 - 1. The heart cannot embrace what the mind cannot accept
- E. What you eventually do with Jesus is your decision, but don't refuse His invitation to investigate Him. Make an informed decision.

II. COME AFTER ME

- A. Matt. 16:24-26
- B. Eph. 4:1-8 - Walk worthy of the calling
- C. 1Cor. 6:19-20 - We are no longer our own. We are no longer slaves of sin and Satan; we are the esteemed servants of the Lord
- D. Though the cost of discipleship may seem high, the prize of eternal salvation is priceless.

III. COME, YOU BLESSED OF MY FATHER

- A. Matt. 25:31-34
- B. John 14:1-6 - Jesus is building houses for us.
- C. Rev. 21:23 - 22:5 - The neighborhood where Jesus is building our houses

Conclusion:

- A. What will you do with the invitations of our Lord?
- B. Everyone wants to respond to the third invitation, but it is offered only to those who have come to Jesus in obeying the Gospel and who come after Jesus by living faithful in Him.