

101595

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Senior Seminar

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Essay 1- What is my vocational calling?

My calling is to be a communicative leader who creates better environments for others. This conviction has grown throughout my undergraduate years as I have reflected on what it means to live a meaningful, purposeful, and faithful life. While society often defines success by achievements, status, or measurable impact, I believe that success is ultimately about faithfulness to God's plan—whether visible or not.

A compelling example of this can be found in the story of Esther. Esther had an extraordinary opportunity to do something significant for God's plan, yet she came from a lineage of faithful individuals whose contributions were less acknowledged. Her parents, for example, played a crucial role in her existence, yet their faithfulness was not recorded in history as hers was. In Esther 4:14, Mordecai reminded her of the bigger picture: "You and your father's family"—a phrase that acknowledges the unseen faithfulness of those before her. Their lives mattered, even if they were not celebrated. Similarly, my vocational calling may not always manifest in visible, grand accomplishments, but that does not make it any less significant.

This perspective raises essential questions: Could we be fulfilling someone else's calling? Can my calling change over time? Is simply following Jesus enough? The pressure to achieve something "big" for God can feel overwhelming, but I have come to understand that God does not require me to prove my worth through extraordinary acts. What He has already done through

Christ is sufficient. My desire to contribute to His kingdom should stem from gratitude and love, not pressure or fear of failure. It is not about fulfilling an obligation but about living in a way that is always ready and expectant of God's work in and through me.

At the same time, I never want to settle for mediocrity. If I become complacent or stop striving to use my gifts fully, do I risk missing out on God's purpose for me? I do not believe that one life is more valuable than another, but I do believe that I am responsible for stewarding the abilities and opportunities God has given me. As someone who is a leader, a communicator, and a person who seeks to create better environments for others, I recognize that my calling is not about a specific occupation but about the way I live my life in any context. Whether in conversations, relationships, or leadership roles, I am called to be a voice that fosters understanding, encouragement, and positive change.

William C. Placher once wrote, "Work can be both blessing and curse, the task that fulfills us and gives our lives meaning in the service of God or the burdensome job we endure to put food on the table for our families." This quote resonates deeply with my understanding of vocation. The work I do can either be an avenue through which I live out my calling with purpose or a mere obligation that I endure. The difference, I believe, lies in my perspective and willingness to align my efforts with God's purpose. Even in roles that may seem mundane, I am called to be faithful, to approach each opportunity as a chance to serve, and to trust that God is working through me in ways I may not always see.

Deanna Thompson once stated, "To actively work toward the flourishing of all at times will likely mean that one's own gladness takes a back seat to our neighbor's pain." This quote highlights the sacrificial nature of my calling. My purpose is not just about finding personal

fulfillment but about serving others, even when it requires putting their needs ahead of my own comfort. True leadership and faithfulness involve a willingness to bear burdens alongside those who are struggling, ensuring that my work contributes to the greater good rather than solely my own advancement.

Ultimately, my vocational calling is about surrender—releasing my own plans to God while maintaining the anticipation that He will use me in ways both visible and unseen. Whether in significant, widely recognized ways or in the quiet, everyday moments that shape lives, my goal is to remain faithful, always ready for God to show up. My calling is not about achieving greatness by worldly standards but about being a vessel through which God's presence and purpose can be made known.

Sources:

Mark, A. (2020). *Beyond Deep Gladness*. Fortress Press.

Placher, W. C. (Year). *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*. Publisher.