



CEO Devotional – May 6, 2013
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Whom Shall I Send? Who Will Go for Us?

These questions first had real meaning to me more than twenty-five years ago when I was asked to proclaim these words as a part of reading Isaiah 6 during the ordination of a friend. These verses have stuck with me ever since and are a constant challenge in my life. More so today, than ever.

You will recall the setting of Isaiah seeing the Lord and being overwhelmed by his iniquity, but a seraphim holds an ember from the altar to his lips, thus purging his sin. Then the Lord asks: "*Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?*"

The CEO Forum is really just another chapter for me, like I am sure it is for you, in that question being raised in my life. I find it virtually wherever I look or wherever I am. It challenges me in my marriage, family, work, community, and not just in my "church" life. How am I representing the Lord when He puts me in a particular setting-am I there for Him and to represent Him, or am I ignorant or callous to His challenge to me in that setting? Do I recognize that He is giving me yet another opportunity to answer His challenge affirmatively?

These daunting questions can come in "smaller circumstances." Should I apologize? Can I give that encouragement? Can I do that kind deed that suddenly popped into my head?

The challenge can come in bigger requests that frighten us, just like they have for eons and thousands before us. The ones that cause us to tremble and argue.

For many years, the music of our faith has been a powerful force in my life (despite having no musical or vocal talent whatsoever, really). It doesn't matter whether it is traditional, classical, contemporary, meditative, liturgical, or another form of Christ-centered music. Yet it was only a relatively few years ago when the song that is frequently in my head these days came into my life. It is called "The Summons," written by John Bell, a Presbyterian in the Iona Community of Scotland. The music itself is powerful, but it is the words that are both powerfully challenging and attracting.

Will you come and follow Me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let My love be shown? Will you let My name be known,

Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?....

Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?....

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?

Those are His questions to us, in small things and bigger things. In all parts of our daily lives, in all of our relationships, and in all the opportunities He gives us to serve. He wants us to answer:

Lord Your summons echoes true when You but call my name.

Let me turn and follow You and never be the same. In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.