**God is calling.**

*A call is an assignment.*

God is always at work around us and He invites us to join Him and participate in His great work. There are many distractors in our world today and it requires an attentive ear, a heart that is yielded to him and a discerning spirit to hear God’s voice.

And so, regardless of the noise around us, regardless of the calamity we find ourselves in, God is calling us to join Him in His work. Ours like Henry Blackaby said, is to ask Him to ‘open our eyes so we can see where He is at work and join Him there.’

We are going to look at the story of a Prophet who received his call to be a prophet while in captivity. It was a season of crisis. Normal life had been disrupted, but in the midst of that disruption, God called, and Ezekiel responded. **Psalm 137:1-4**

**Read Ezekiel 2:1-10**

Points to note:

Judah had been taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and Ezekiel was among those that were exiled in Babylon. **2 Kings 24:10-17**

The children of Israel had sinned against God. He had given them a template for life, but they disobeyed and did as they pleased, and there were consequences for that one of them being exiled by enemy countries. **Deut 28:25, 36**

So the captivity in Babylon was as a result of sin. But like in all cases, there are always righteous people that God uses. And one of those is Ezekiel. He was a priest and later received his call as a prophet while in captivity.

***Note: God’s call for your life cannot be limited by prevailing circumstances or geographical locations. It is us who limit ourselves. God is ready to use available vessels wherever they may be.***

God called Ezekiel to be a prophet among a people that were stubborn, rebellious and obstinate. (this is God’s exact description: rebellious, stubborn, obstinate) So Ezekiel knew the sort of people he was going to work with. This however did not change God’s assignment: He still required Ezekiel to speak and do as God commanded him. **vs 7**

The world is currently going through some sort of captivity. We cannot move like we would want to. We cannot gather for public and corporate worship. Many people have suffered extensive losses, whether in business, loss of jobs and livelihoods, others have lost their loved ones, families have disintegrated, there have been tremendous losses all around. And because of all these, people have doubted the goodness of God or their hearts have been hardened. People are broken and lives have been shuttered. Right now one topics that many are discussing is mental health and well-being because of all the trauma and loss going around.

But like in Babylon, God is looking for an Ezekiel to use as His vessel. I want to believe Ezekiel’s communion with God was vibrant and intimate even in captivity. No wonder God called him as His messenger and prophet.

***Point: I hope you are finding ways to keep your relationship with God healthy and growing even in the prevailing circumstances.***

God’s call for Ezekiel was specific, to be a prophet among the exiles in Babylon. He was called to bring about repentance among the Israelites, to implore them to turn their hearts to Yahweh. I do not know how God will call you this season or the specific assignment he has for you. However, keep close to His heart, you will hear His voice and when He calls, obey!

Over and above the specific assignment or call God has for you, I want to remind us of the following calls/assignments that God has on every believer. There are many assignments in the Bible and am sure you know them but allow me to highlight these for today.

1. **To be salt of the earth (Math 5:13).**

Salt has properties that affect things around it. It adds flavour, it seasons, and preserves. As salt we bring God’s distinctive values in every space and preserve those values. In a decaying world that has losses all around, God is asking us to be those that will bring healing and freshness around us.

Pr Ken loves to say that salt is useless if it remains in the salt-shaker. How might God use you to bring flavour around you? How might God be asking you to be involved in your spaces to bring about freshness?

1. **To be the light of the earth (Math 5:14-16)**

We bring God’s colours in the world as His children. We shine publicly for Jesus. How do we do that? Through our good deeds. Notice it says the glory goes back to the one who asks us to be light, so we should check our hearts lest we usurp God’s glory.

Be light wherever God has places you. Reach out. Encourage and admonish and pray for one another. Speak hope over despair. Peace over turmoil. Love over hate.

1. **To be an ambassador (2 Cor 5:20)**

We are God’s personal representatives. What a priviledge! Having been reconciled to Him, he now invites us to implore others to be reconciled to Him. In other words we are His messengers to the world. Even in the crisis the world finds itself in, God want people to turn to Him. Jesus is still saying ‘come’ and he is sending us to the world to tell them that he loves them. May we be worthy witnesses of this precious gift.

1. **To be a letter that can be read by many (2 Cor 3:2-3)**

Our lives are letters of recommendation from God to the world. The question is, what are people reading from the pages of our lives? Are our lives endorsing Him or rejecting Him? When Job was tested, he testified and said ‘*My redeemer lives*.’ After Hannah was tested, she said, ‘*I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him*.’ When the armies of Egypt were pursuing the Israelites, Moses stood and said *“Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord.* David said ‘*My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.’*

What is your testimony to the world?

As you wait on God’s specific call or assignment for you or as you discharge the assignment that He has already given you, remember;

To keep yourself pure and ready (2 Timothy 2:20-26)

Do not be afraid (Ezekiel 2:6-7 Joshua 1:7)

Go, obey, He is with you. (Matthew 28:20b)