


**UNITY**  
CHURCH OF BAKERSFIELD  
"A POSITIVE PLACE TO GROW!"


Today's Lesson  
*A Matter of God's Call*  
PowerPoint notes available at:  
[www.unityofbakersfield.org](http://www.unityofbakersfield.org)

*A Matter of God's Call*




In his book, *The Week That Changed the World*, the late Ernest Wilson, Unity minister and author wrote about one man who answered God's call: It is given to only a few men to change the course of history. It was given to one man—Jesus Christ—to change the world.

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And of all the days of His short span of life, it was the last week, perhaps, that changed it most of all—the seven days by which the die was cast. A week that changed the world.


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Five things done by Jesus especially aroused the established authorities against him:

1. He cast out evil spirits from an afflicted man;
2. He dined with a Pharisee without conforming to the custom of washing before the meal;


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3. He set aside the restrictions on what a Jew might eat;
4. He healed a sick woman on the Sabbath, and finally;
5. He raised Lazarus from the dead!

It was this miracle that sealed His fate as far as the Jewish authorities were concerned.

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"So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, 'What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on thus, every one will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation' ... So from that day on they took counsel how to put him to death."

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The majority of us grew up with this picture of Jesus entering Jerusalem.

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Who of us here have not lived the life that Jesus lived in some form?  
Who of us have not experienced a less than perfect upbringing, the sting of rejection by those we've tried to help, the pain of crucifixion brought on by the process of the human condition, and finally finding ourselves being resurrected into something new, like a Phoenix rising from the ashes.

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This week is a time of reflection on what it means to answer God's call.  
It is our opportunity to be filled with the presence of God. To be filled the love of God, the light of God, the peace of God.  
It is our chance to see the activity of God working in every circumstance to bring about blessings of every good kind

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It is our time to see with the "eyes" of the heart and to answer God's call of: *Let my presence be in you and through you.*  
As today's Daily Word affirmed:  
*With joy, I welcome the Christ-the spirit of God in the midst of me.*

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Jesus was constantly reminding people that God was always knocking on the door of their hearts to let them know they were not alone in this process of living. As he shared God's call of "*let my presence be realized*" they could experience the kingdom right now, *for it is the father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

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Answering God's call can only take place within one's heart. Here are 12 affirmations that can kick start the conversation.

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1. I am certain that You and I can face any situation God, and that You will help me understand, grow, and be at peace.
2. With Your help, God, I reach up and "climb" the ladder to true success and soul fulfillment.
3. You are in the stillness, God, so very near to me. I am centered in Your presence, and I am serene in this moment.

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4. I open my mind to Your loving guidance, God, out of which comes all understanding.
5. Your peaceful presence, dear God, is my strength, my courage, my comfort. In Your presence I find all I need in every situation.
6. Thank you, God, for Your love within me. Like a spirit of peace that lifts me to a new awareness of Your presence, my spirit soars with Your freeing, uplifting love.

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7. I am safe and secure in Your loving presence, God. I relax, let go, and move forward in the faith that I am divinely protected.
8. In the vast sea of life, You, God, are my life preserver, my security, my safety, and I am grateful.

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9. My soul rejoices in Your presence within me, God. You are my very life. I open my heart to the fullness of Your presence, and I am blessed with unending peace and happiness.
10. Thank you, God, for being my light and my companion within and beyond any tunnel I may travel through.

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11. In my heart of hearts, spirit of God, I feel Your vigilant presence awaiting my call, anticipating my every need.
12. God, I know that You are with me in the darkest moments and that You are sustaining me and leading me into light and peace.

### *A Matter of God's Call*



One of my favorite statements about the presence of God is found in Acts 17:28, "*In him we live and move and have our being.*" It reminds me I am never alone, no matter what.