



Friday, March 13, 2020

When God Calls Us to Move out of Our Comfort Zones

by Scott Stoner

*For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather
a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.*

—2 Timothy 1:7

The Bible is full of stories of God calling people to do things they could not have imagined ever doing. Mary and Joseph are obvious examples. So, too, are Moses, Ruth, David, Samuel, Peter, Rebekah, and Paul.

Last Sunday we read about God calling Abraham to leave his home country and to trust God's call to him. "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you" (Genesis 12:1-2). As we noted earlier, the Gospel reading for last Sunday contains the story of God calling Nicodemus to risk moving out of his comfort zone. There seems to be a theme here.

The decision to risk leaving one's status quo to follow God was most likely as much of a gut-wrenching decision for those in biblical times as it is for us today. Teddy Brooks wrote of this when she talked about "those agonizing moments when you and I toss and turn questioning God, questioning our next steps, trying to rationalize and agonizing over whatever situation in which we find ourselves."

All change is hard, even change to which God is calling us. Sometimes it's hard to discern what is God's call to change, and what is simply our own ego. During times of change, it is invaluable to discern God's call to us in the context of community, seeking the spiritual guidance of others whom we trust and who can help us be true to God's call to grow and change.

Making It Personal: Can you think of time when God was calling you to have courage and make a change that you were not quite sure you wanted to make? Is there a change that God is calling you to make right now? To whom do you turn for spiritual counsel when you need help discerning God's call and direction for your life?