

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the top left, a small potted plant with green leaves sits in a white woven basket. To its right is a silver laptop, partially open. Below the plant is a black smartphone. To the right of the phone is a spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored cover. In the bottom center, a white cup of coffee sits on a saucer. A black pen is visible in the bottom left corner. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Sunday Morning Equipping Class

## **The Gospel in the Ordinary**

# Text to Check-In

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If you haven't checked in today or any other Sunday morning, please text *Equip* to 678-929-4050

This will allow us to communicate with you when there are schedule updates and other class information!

# Life Before the Face of God

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

# Life Before the Face of God

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

# Life Before the Face of God

“Through our work, we become the hands of God. When people pray for their daily bread, God grants it through farmers, bakers, and grocers. When we pray for clothing and shelter, he sends shepherds and construction workers. We are often like the stage crew for a play. Our labor is sometimes invisible, but without it, the show would not go on.”

- Dan Doriani, *Work that Makes a Difference*, Ch 1

# A Few Assumptions

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Work was given to man before the fall

Work was affected by the fall

Our view of work are often culturally shaped

Good work serves God and neighbor

▼ “First, no honest calling is morally superior to any other. Cashiers and corporate leaders, cabinetmakers and icemakers, all have a capacity to serve God and neighbor. He will ask each of us the same questions on the last day:

- Did you honor me by honing the skills I gave you?
- Did you honor the parents, mentors, and friends who invested in you?
- Did you use your abilities to provide for your family?
- Did you promote the good of your neighbors, mankind, and this world?
- Did my people get answers to their legitimate prayers through you?

These questions do not necessarily preclude evaluating various lines of work. The five questions assume that valid work serves society. Sadly, some work that is legal is useless or destructive.”

-Doriani, Daniel M.. Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation (pp. 87-88). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

# Where We're Going

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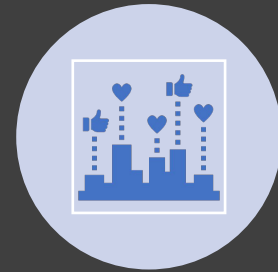
CALLING



PROVISION

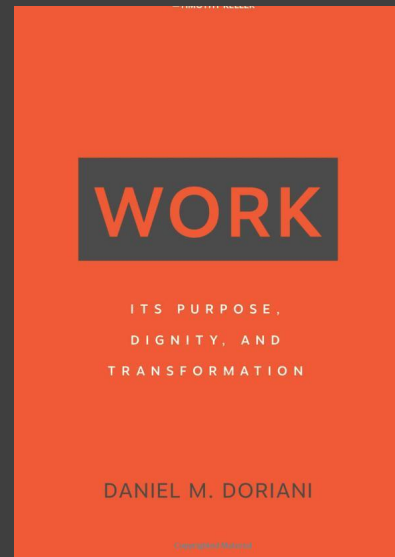
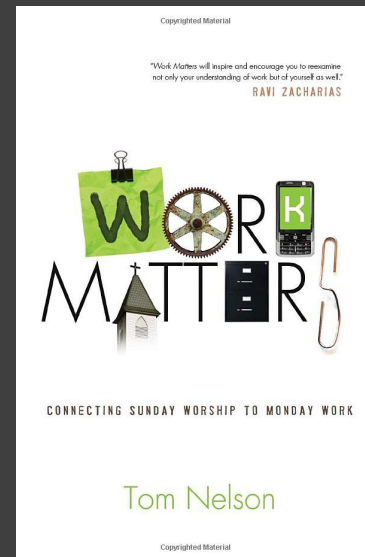
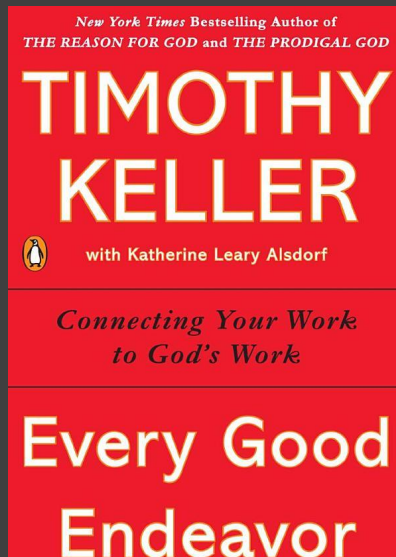
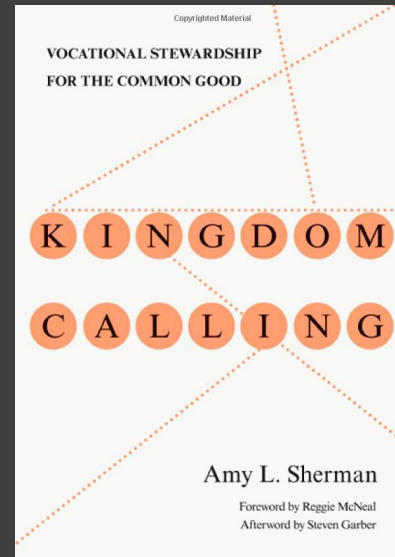
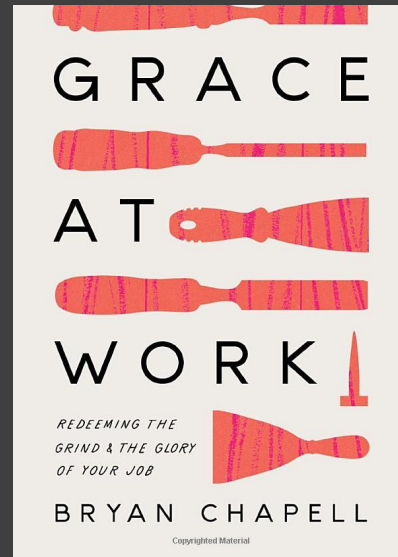
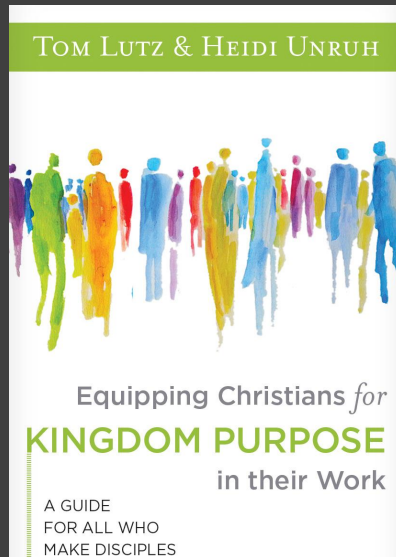


INFLUENCE



BLESSING





# Further Reading

# Table Discussion

*When people ask, “what do you do for work?” how do you answer that right now?*

*What is the job you’ve done for the longest?*

# Personal Reflection

*What would you say is your true  
calling in life?*

# 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. 18 Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. 19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. 20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. 21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

# Study on Your Own, Then Discuss

*Reread 1 Corinthians 7:17-24*

*What do you think v.17 means  
when it says, “lead the life that the  
Lord assigned”?*

*How would you define “calling”  
according to this passage?*

# 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

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# The Passion Hypothesis

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*“The key to occupational happiness is to first figure out what you're passionate about and then find a job that matches this passion.”*

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**SO  
GOOD  
THEY CAN'T  
IGNORE  
YOU**

Why **Skills** Trump Passion  
in the Quest for **Work** You Love

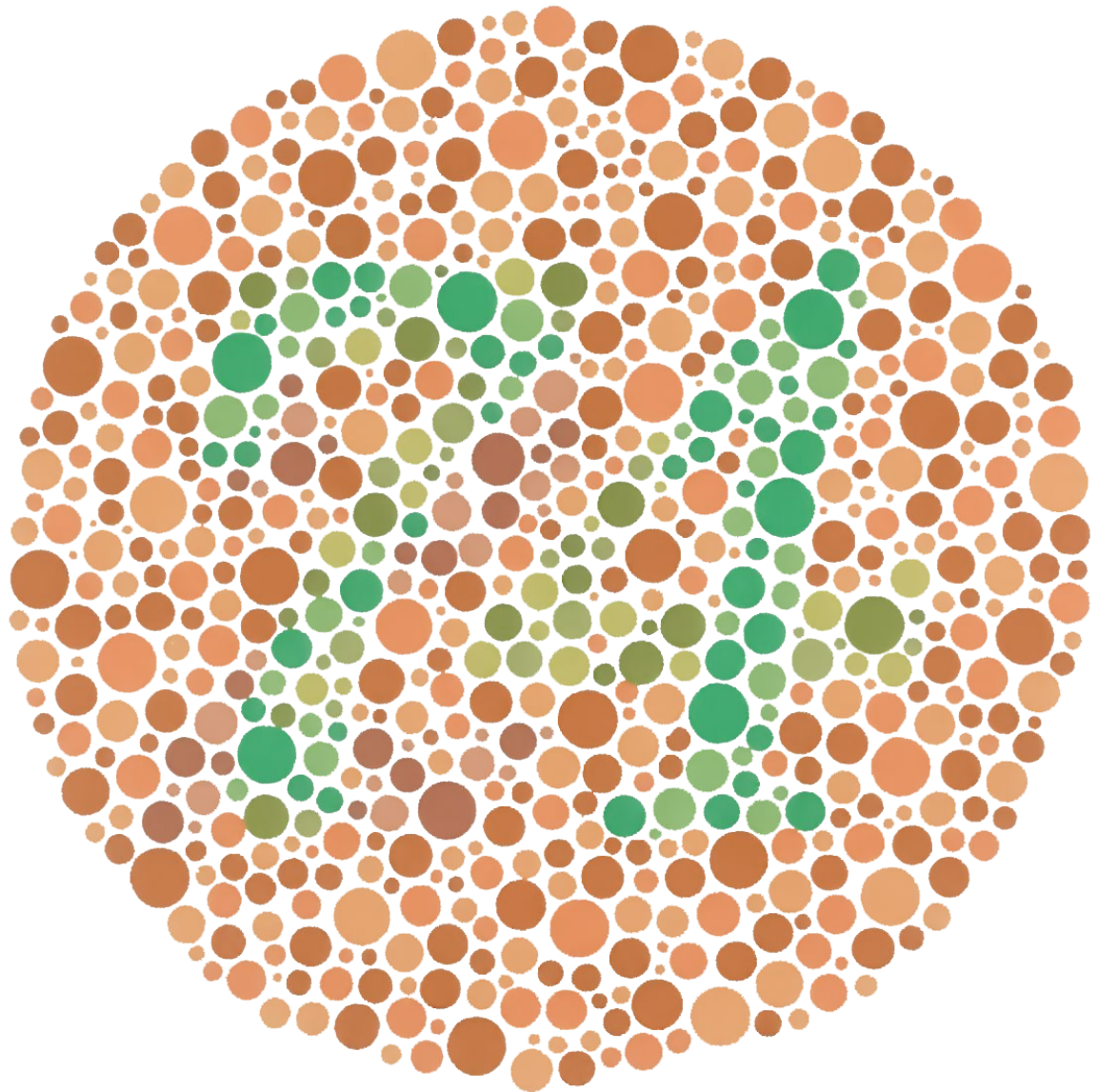
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# 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

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# What is God's Calling on Your Life?

- We are "called to belong to Jesus Christ" (Rom 1:6).
- We are "called according to his purpose...to be conformed to the likeness of [God's] Son" (Rom 8:29).
- We are called to "share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Ths 2:14).
- We are "called into fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor 1:9).

# Primary and Secondary Callings

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Acts 17:26

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God...

# Primary and Secondary Callings

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“Gene Veith also expands the way we think of work and other roles. Veith identifies several calls. Beyond work, believers are called to discipleship, family, society, and the church. A retired woman may not work for pay, but she still has callings as mother, grandmother, citizen, disciple, sister, and friend.<sup>24</sup> A college student has several callings too. He is a student, a roommate, a guard on an intramural basketball team, and a barista at a coffee shop. Given that everyone has several callings, changes are inevitable. But, Veith continues, we shouldn’t focus on that, as if the right calling is around the corner. Society ascribes various weights to these activities, but all have moral value, because God issues them.”

-Dorani, Daniel M.. Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation (p. 101). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

# 1 Corinthians 7:21-24

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21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

## **Philippians 4:11-12**

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



# Gifts, Passions and Choices

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Frederick Buechner says, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” If Buechner is right, then our call and work are provisional, for the world’s hungers shift. We have core abilities and interests that remain through life, but as we grow, our interests and capacities change. As we adjust, our call may change too, especially as we consider the best way to use our skills to restore this broken world.

-Dorani, Daniel M.. Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation (pp. 100-101). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

# Gifts, Passions and Choices

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So then, we don't simply choose our vocation. We look for appealing work and hope it is a calling, but we also find our calling by working where we are. Whether we move or not, whether we can reform our workplace or not, we should think, "This is my work, the place the Lord assigned."

-Doriani, Daniel M.. Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation (p. 102). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

On Your Own

*Write a list of all of your  
current callings in life*



Roni Leahy

# Table Discussion

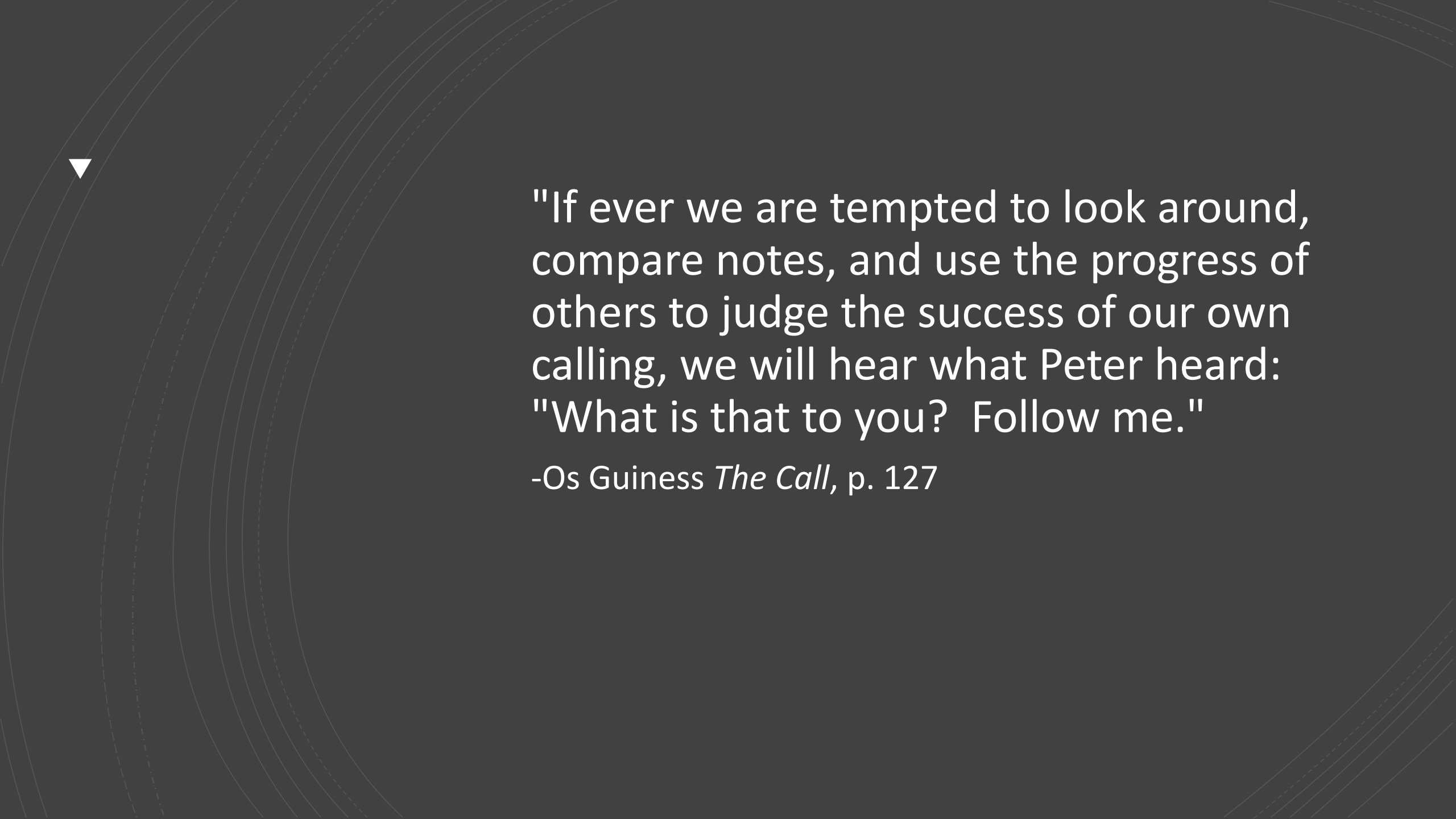
*What did you hear?*

*How does Roni's story and the  
Scriptures you've heard today  
help you think about your  
calling?*

## John 21:18

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” 22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” 23 So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”



"If ever we are tempted to look around,  
compare notes, and use the progress of  
others to judge the success of our own  
calling, we will hear what Peter heard:  
"What is that to you? Follow me."

-Os Guinness *The Call*, p. 127