

September 2010: SD Website

HERE I AM, LORD

Fellow Pilgrims:

We are just starting the fall season. School has started for our kids in our local towns, and colleges and universities have started classes. Many other programs, which stopped at the beginning of summer, are starting up again. This fall, I would urge all of us to be alert to God's voice in our lives. The question of God's voice is not a question of *if*, but of *when*. When God calls, what will our answer be?

I want to look at some calls by God from the Bible and end with a song's lyrics. In First Samuel 3: 4-10, God calls Samuel and Samuel's response is, "Here I am; you called me." Samuel was faithful to the call of God throughout his life. In Isaiah 6: 1-13, the prophet Isaiah has a vision of God. In the midst of the vision, Isaiah here the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah's response is, "Here am I. Send me!"

In Acts 22: 6-11; Paul (or Saul as he was known then) met the Lord on the road to Damascus. Paul asks two questions, "Who are you, Lord?" and, "What shall I do, Lord?" Paul has just learned that Jesus Christ is real and is God. Even though Paul is persecuting Christians, he does not defend himself, but asks what he should do. His, "Here I am, Lord," is a readiness to do what the Lord commands. The light on the Damascus Road had blinded Paul. He was led into the city. In Acts 9: 1-20, yet another person says, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord spoke to Ananias in the vision and told him to go and heal Saul. Ananias questions God about the wisdom of this request. Nonetheless his, "Here I am, Lord," shows his willingness to do God's work. Samuel, Isaiah, Paul, and Ananias all answered, "Here I am, Lord." Can we not do likewise when the Lord calls us to be faithful to the tasks He sets before us?

I want to share the lyrics of one of my favorite Christian songs. I first encountered it during my Cursillo retreat. It continues to inspire me. I still get chills when I sing it. I pray that the words of the following song penetrate our hearts and help us to remember to be faithful to God's call in our lives.

(1) I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people's cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

(Chorus) Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

(2) I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have heard My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

(Chorus) Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

(3) I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for the. My hand will save.
Finest bread will I provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. ? Whom shall I send?

(Chorus) Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

May this song and the examples of Samuel, Isaiah, Paul, and Ananias dwell in your mind, heart, soul, and spirit so that you confidently say, "Here I am, Lord," when He calls you today and every day of your life. Amen.

In Christ's love,
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