

Here I Am Lord, Send Me

As Tim Fargo said: "Opportunity doesn't make appointments, you have to be ready when it arrives." In the Old Testament, we see how Isaiah acts with selflessness and self-abandonment. In response to the Lord's command, he knew nothing about his task but shows acceptance and solace unlike Jeremiah. The command was concerning the execution of the divine judgement upon the Jews and Isaiah voluntarily offered his service because he knew it would be right to offer his service to the Lord. God encouraged Isaiah through his service the same way we are encouraged to act selflessly and be able to accept tasks knowing what we are getting ourselves into.

When we are given hard tasks, we tend to hesitate or question how long the task will be then we later give in and accept the task. This is because not everyone can be generous with their time and prefer laziness over productivity. There are many factors that affect one's availability, maybe they just don't have the time to help. But what if it meant that you were helping a famous person, most people would help because of their social status but what about the people you see every day? In the Old Testament, Isaiah the Prophet, gave his time to anyone that needed his assistance and didn't complain about the tedious tasks entrusted to him. When God gave him the command, he accepted it and did not see the task as a burden. No matter the extent of a task or the person who entrusted the task, we must always act with acceptance and solace.

Imagine you are in a class with a group of bullies who bully and steal from the other students in your class. The teachers are unaware of this and students are scared to ask any adult for assistance. This situation harkens back to when God wanted the Israelites to take back the promised land from those who occupied it. However, the Israelites were hesitant in going to battle because they weren't expecting to fight, God was displeased of their lack of faith. Although, a similar occurrence happened in the Book of Isaiah, God proposed a command relating to the Jews, unlike the Israelites, Isaiah bravely offers his service to the Lord without being forced to. The same way we should be standing up to the bullies in our life not because we are obligated to but for the betterment of everyone else. We must be able to volunteer without being asked to especially when it is the right thing to do.

Selflessness and self-abandonment are words that are similar in the sense that you give something up to benefit someone else like your time, pride, etc. But they are also different in the sense that selflessness implies that you are more concerned with the needs and wishes of others than your own, whereas self-abandonment implies that you can give up everything for another person's sake. We see people do selfless acts all the time like how people give up their lunches to someone who didn't eat their breakfast or someone writing down notes for someone else because they were sick. Although, there are people willing to put in that extra mile, that extra work, time, effort, and to completely abandon everything just to fulfill something that benefits others. God wants us to act in an altruistic manner because he wants us to have a sense of self sacrifice just like Isaiah. His hardships and selflessness are admirable, it's his acts of self-abandonment which makes him a great prophet.

Whether the task is simple or difficult, whether it came from someone who is popular or unadmirable, we are encouraged to act selflessly and be able to accept tasks knowing what we do is what is right. No matter the commission given to us, we must accept the situation and find solace in what we do. We shouldn't feel obligated to volunteer to help, we should be volunteering without being asked to especially when it is the right thing to do. Acting selflessly to the point of being able to abandon everything to fulfill something that benefits others is one of the things that truly makes a person a genuinely good person. Of course, we can't expect everyone to have the same mindset, people value things different and have their own perspective but this variety only makes altruistic people with a sense of self-sacrifice more unique of a category.

- Juanito Catalon
- ST MAURICE SCHOOL / ST VITAL PARISH
- FATHER MARK TARRANT

Isaiah writes, 'Then I heard the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"'

Isaiah was making all sorts of excuses and telling God why he wasn't qualified to do the job. But God did not need someone who had experience and expertise, it's availability and teach ability.

If you are willing to go where God will take you, he will take you inaccessible places and do impossible things. Isn't it impractical that we spend so much time and energy trying to get to the place God wants us to go? But we can just simply say "Here am I."

It is God's love to guide us where he wants us to go. Our job is to make ourselves available. Like a nurse, a doctor, and an office worker, it is our readiness to respond what God is looking for. If we are ready, God will call us over and we shall serve for him.

Sometimes it's a simple encouragement to move out of our way and love our next-door neighbor. Sometimes it's a calling to move halfway around the world, but it always starts with the little three-word prayer of availability: 'Here am I.'

How then do we serve God? Well, in everything. God has granted each of us gifts, whether in serving, teaching, exhortation or simply in carrying out our everyday work. Whether you are a student, a writer, a manager, a mother, or a husband; fulfilling your earthly obligations is, in fact, service to the Lord.

There are ways to serve God in our day-to-day life. I once served God by helping my lecturer carry her belongings inside our school. Serving God makes my bond with other people much stronger, as I also serve God with them.

I serve God in my community by helping out our people. I volunteer in our church, help my parents in our household tasks, and take care of my beloved sister. I also help teaching my classmates the work they have missed out while they were absent. This is also how I serve God in my own way.

God gave me certain talents. He wants me to do something for Him that no one else can do. Realize also that it will make all the difference in the world how I respond to his plan. If I say no to God, the work will remain unfinished.

Like the blessed virgin Mary, the Mother of God is my model in responding to God's call. As a Mother, she wants what is best for us. She knows what God's plan is for us. Nobody really responded to God's call as perfectly as she did.

Essay

When I hear the words "Here am I Lord, send me" I feel like I will have to do something important; for example doing a task to help the homeless. God calls us to do good things for our society. We could help them by giving them clothes that we don't use and canned foods that we don't eat. Another good deed we could do is clean up our streets from the litter that people just throw out. We could pick them up and throw them in the proper bin they belong in. We could also use the recycling bin more and not throw out our plastic bottles in the trash bin. We could use the plastic bottles to make things, for example, backpacks, phone cases and more. Therefore, God calls us to help our society, to make a change and not pollute our planet.

These came to my mind when I hear the words "Here am I Lord, send me". But maybe I am a sinful person and God would not choose me because I am unworthy of a task for the Apostles.

Getting closer to God is a simple but also a hard task. Praying every day is good but really meaning and understanding what you say is hard. For example, the Apostles Creed, do you really mean what you say? Or you just say it to get it over with. God also tells us to live by the Commandments, for example, "Honor your father and mother". This is important because they love you and also they are there when you need help with any problems that you have.

I could relate to this in my life because my mom asks me to do something and I do it. I leave my homework behind or whatever I was doing so I could help my mom to make her proud. Therefore, this is an example of how God calls you to do a good deed and have a close relationship with Him.

Another example is The Greatest Commandment "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul". This teaches you that you shall love the Lord with all your imperfections for He loves you! Therefore, God tells us to live and base our style of living around the Ten Commandments.

God calls us to respect people and love everyone as you love the Lord. Everyone is dealing with something whether it's bad or good but we can't be judgmental about it. We need empathy to put yourself to another person's shoes to deal with whatever they were dealing with. We need to show more love to the people around us. If they are poor, rich, doesn't matter. We should respect everyone! God made us! And because God made us if we make fun of someone, you're hurting God as well for He made everyone equal.

As a Christian I believe in God, and would sacrifice everything and anything to have a closer relationship with Him. So when I reflect on the words "Here am I Lord, send me" it connects to our Christian belief that if God Himself asked a favor we have a choice, a choice that we ignore Him and move on, or we do what He asks and leave our old lives behind and start a new one even closer with Him.

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"HERE AM I LORD, SEND ME"

Pope Francis said, "Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith."

In my own little way, I try to be kind and helpful to others. I am answering God's call by loving my family, classmates, friends, community, and neighbor by my loving actions.

For instance, as a son, I help out in the house with chores by vacuuming wherever I have to, unloading the dishwasher, and hanging coats. I also calm my parents down when they get mad, by giving them hugs and kisses. I take responsibility for my siblings' actions when they make a mess by cleaning it up. The commandment that I respect the most, is 'Honor Your Father & Mother'. By doing so, I am also honoring my father and my mother as the Lord has commanded.

As a brother, I play with my older brother and make him smile by being the little brother he would always want me to be. As for my sister, we spend time with each other by dancing for fun and watching a movie together.

As a grandson, I helped my 80-year old grandparents to feel safe and comfortable when they visited Canada for the first time in August 2018. I showed love and compassion by helping them with cooking and giving them hugs every day. I also introduced them to Netflix and made jokes that would always make them laugh.

As a classmate, I asked my Mom if we can give my classmate a ride home because it was too cold.

As a student, I was playing tag once outside of the school. A tagger began to chase me, so I ran. I looked back to see if the tagger was close. But that led to me crashing into another student.

My knees and hands were in a lot of pain. But I made sure that the kid I ran into was okay before I treated myself.

As a basketball player, I play the role of point guard. As a point guard, my first priority is to look for a pass rather than to score. I do not hog the ball. Rather, I make plays to make sure everyone gets the ball evenly, a chance to score, and enjoy the game.

As a participant in Career Trek, a teacher offered two different flavors of juice box during snack time. There were grape and strawberry kiwi. Both I and another participant wanted the grape. I decided to give it to him because he was younger and I thought that he will enjoy it more than I would.

As a parishioner, I volunteered at Siloam Mission and helped with sorting of clothes and other items. At Holy Family Home, we sang carols for the elderly.

As an altar server, I serve to grow my faith with God and help out during Mass.

As a neighbor, I helped rake the leaves of another house whose owner is an elderly.

As a friend, I am fun to play and laugh with. I am easily trusted by others given the fact that I approach them with a smile.

All of these actions are my little way of responding to the Lord's call by following the New Commandment "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

John 13:34

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