

Key Takeaway

God calls ordinary people in extraordinary ways -- not because we're qualified, but because God qualifies us in our call. Through failure and redirection, ordinary celebrations, and radical inclusion, we witness how God's calling operates in both spiritual and earthly realms - requiring both grace and responsibility.

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Lutheran Lens

Luther's Right Hand / Left Hand Kingdoms

A child gets caught with their hand in the cookie jar, again. Mom, well within her right, starts doling out a punishment for breaking the household rules once again. The child says, "Jesus forgives me, so you should too!" Luther would argue that they're both right!

Luther distinguished between God's "Kingdom of Grace" (right hand) where we receive forgiveness and love, and the "Kingdom of Power" (left hand) where we live with consequences and responsibility in community. Both kingdoms are necessary - we cannot grow in faith without grace, and we cannot build good communities without accountability. God calls us to live faithfully in both realms, balancing divine forgiveness with earthly responsibility.

Biblical Foundation

Supporting Scripture.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

Dig Deeper!

Here are additional texts that support both "right hand" and "left hand" kingdoms:

Right Hand (Grace):

Luke 6:27-36

Jonah 3:3-10

John 8:1-11

Left Hand (Power):

Exodus 20:1-17

Matthew 5:17-20

Matthew 19:16-26

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Week 2. "I am Called"

The Chosen, Season 1, Episodes 4-6

Small Group Discussion

Fishers of Men

(S1, E4) Luke 5:1-11

I am called... to forego control.

1. **Empty Nets:** Describe a time when your best efforts came up empty; when you worked hard but saw little results.
2. **Unexpected Abundance:** Was there a way that God redirected you in an unexpected way during or after that experience?
3. **New Direction:** What new path or perspective did this experience open up for you?

Wedding in Cana

(S1, E5) – John 2:1-12

I am called... to be a witness; to tell others what God has done.

1. **See Divine Presence:** How does Jesus show up in your ordinary celebrations and gatherings? What are you called to notice that others might miss?
2. **Tell the Story:** Like the servants who drew the water and knew where the wine came from, when have you been called to share what you've witnessed God do?
3. **Public Witness:** Jesus could no longer keep his ministry private after this miracle. How is Jesus calling you to move from private faith to more public witness?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

This week, practice being a witness! NOTICE one way God shows up in your ordinary life and then TELL someone else about it.

Matthew's Transformation

(S1, E6) – Luke 5:27-38

I am called... to be willing to learn.

1. **Radical Inclusion:** Is there a point where our church's comfort zone ends when it comes to welcoming others to the table? Think hard!
2. **Beyond Judgment:** How do our assumptions about "difficult people" prevent us from seeing their worth and calling?
3. **Mercy Over Rules:** When has our church been called to prioritize compassion over conventional expectations?
4. **Matthew's Quote Analysis:** At the beginning of episode 6, Matthew tells the Roman official (Quintus) that "Conquest is not simply conquering nations but imposing a new way of life."

CHURCH CHALLENGE

Jesus said: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick... For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." How does this redefine our understanding of the church's mission and who we're called to serve?