

Calling and Vocation

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One of the greatest struggles we face in our lives is figuring out just what to do with them. We struggle to find purpose in our actions, and motivation to push us forward. Religion helps us with that, giving us an explanation for our existence, and more importantly, a reason. We call this reason our calling, for we have been called upon by a divine power to serve them and our society in a way that they see fit. We call this service our vocation, or how we live our life faithfully in service to a higher power. These two ideas are very different, but they go hand in hand to shape our lives and our society. A lot of people spend their entire lives searching for their calling and vocation, but everyone's calling and vocation are unique, and I am no exception.

As a college student I am one of millions of young adults who are simply trying to find their calling, and how I am best fit to serve in this world. Finding my calling and vocation has been particularly challenging for me as I do not have a religion, making it hard at times to find reason for my existence, and my place within society. However, while I do not know who exactly created me or what exactly their plan for me is, I have always felt like I was born to inform and entertain. I was also born into an athletic family, coming from a line of professional and collegiate soccer players, so ever since I have been able to walk, I have been involved in and surrounded by sports. I never felt that burning drive to become a professional athlete though, no matter how hard I was pushed by my family. Instead, I'd much rather spend my time watching sports, reading articles about the games, watching sports analysts on YouTube, or debating sports with my friends. While I don't know if I want to enter the journalism, analytics, or broadcasting side of the industry, I know that I am meant to be in sports media and entertainment. That is what led me here to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, because I have been able to get hands-on experience working as the Sports Editor at the school newspaper "The Bells", as well as the ability to continue to play soccer at the collegiate level. These two things are vital to have when entering the sports media industry because they give me credibility and past work experience to help me get my foot in the door.

On the other hand, while finding my calling hasn't been greatly affected by my lack of religion, my vocation certainly has. In the book *Ready or Not*, vocation is defined as "the pursuit of a life lived faithfully with God that includes the many dimensions of the good life". Now you may be wondering how someone who does not know God can find this vocation, but I believe that I have. My entire life, I have been surrounded by religion. My mom's family is baptist, my dad's family is catholic, and I went to school with jews,

muslims, and hindus. While I have never been blessed with the ability to put my own faith in one of these religions, I have been blessed with the ability to learn from each of them. And what I have learned is that no matter what your religion is, whether you are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, or anything else, is that God is or is at least supposed to be love. What I mean by this is how we see our god is how we see our lives. If we believe that God is love, then we will find our happiness in spreading love and kindness to others, but if we believe that God is pure will, then we will only find happiness in oppression. Seeing these different religions and cultures share this same idea has given me peace in my life, because I know now that while I do not know who created me, or what religion is truly correct, that I can live a life of faithful service by spreading love and kindness because I believe whoever created us is truly loving and kind. That is why I had no reservations about coming to Mary Hardin-Baylor, because even though I am surrounded by a religion and faith that are not my own, the ideologies and culture are not as far apart from mine as most would think. I also believe that going into the field of media will help me even more with my vocation, because it will give me a bigger outlet and medium to share my ideas with the world. I think there has been a major disconnect in our society because everyone only takes things at face value. When someone sees someone of a different religion, they only see the differences, rather than the similarities. This causes resentment among our cultures, stopping us from spreading the love and kindness that our creator intended. If we could all recognize that even though we have different religions, and different customs, that we all fundamentally believe that god is good and accepting, then I believe that we could begin to heal our society and rid the world of a lot of unnecessary hate.

In conclusion, while I may not know who called me to my calling, or who I am serving in my vocation, I believe that these two principles are applicable to people of all religions and cultures, not just Christianity. In the words of Os Guinness, "There is no calling unless there is a Caller". One day I will know my Caller, though perhaps not until after my life has been lived. But while I am still young and alive I believe that I have found my calling, and will continue to work towards it and live my life spreading love and kindness, in an attempt to fulfill my vocation.