



WEEK TWO: CALLED OUT

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By Carey Madding

There comes a time in most any western where the average cowboy (or rancher, store owner or farmer) makes a choice. He typically picks up the badge left by the previous sheriff (who died, fled or joined the bad guys) and starts a whole new career of fighting evil and championing justice. There is a crisis moment, a decisive action that defines a new way of life. It happened to Peter, when he stepped out of the boat. Has it happened to you?

[From off-camera: A single, lone tumbleweed blows across the set.]

Where Am I Today?

- 1) If I were asked to put a push-pin on a map and show my “spiritual location” to a friend, based on this weekend’s message, I would say:
 - a. I’m one of the multitude, checking out Jesus.
 - b. I’m a “Shoreline Christian.” I know Jesus as Savior, but I’m basically stuck.
 - c. I’m nervous, but I’m definitely in the boat and rowing into the storm.
 - d. I’m sensing my opportunity to walk on water is near, so I’m asking Jesus about it.
 - e. I just got wet and I’ve hit a few obstacles, but I’m hanging on to His hand.

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read Matthew 14:13-21**, the story of the feeding of the 5,000. Look at the actions, attitudes and reactions of the people, the disciples and Jesus. List them below:
 - a. The multitudes:

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- b. The disciples:
 - c. Jesus:
- 3) This past weekend, Mike said, "*One of the ways to miss your calling is to focus on what you don't have. Use whatever God has given you. Give it all to Him.*" Think about your SHAPE and the talents and experiences—good, bad or ugly—that make up what God has given *you*. List them below:

Spiritual Gifts (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 7:7b)

Heart/Passion (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Philippians 2:13)

Abilities (2 Corinthians 3:5)

Personality (1 Corinthians 2:11a)

Experiences (1 Corinthians 1:4, Proverbs 4:13, 2 Corinthians 9:13a)

- 4) Even when you are right where God sent you, you will still face opposition. Are you surprised at that? Take a look at these Bible heroes. What did they run up against?
- a. **Exodus 13:17-18, Exodus 14**
 - b. **2 Corinthians 11:23-28, 1 Corinthians 16:8-9**

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How Does This Apply?

- 5) We learned this weekend that “Fear has a way of paralyzing us. You can face your fears better after you face Jesus.” What are your fears about following God (in general) and serving (in particular)? How can you “face Jesus”?
 - 6) If you are serving, how did you feel the first time you “stepped out of the boat”? Was there fear about your own capabilities or inexperience? Was there excitement? Or was it basically a blind step of faith?
 - 7) If you are an old pro at serving, have you come across the “sinking” experience that Peter had? Were you going strong, and then ran into obstacles? Can you give a brief overview? How did you overcome?
 - 8) If you are new to serving, what do you think you most need prayer for? Share with your group which statement you marked below.
 - a. I know what and where to serve, but am nervous about committing to it.
 - b. I am still unsure about where to serve. I have lots of abilities, but very little time.
 - c. I would love to be used and serve somewhere; I just can’t see God using me.
 - d. I am serving and on the journey to find my life-long calling!

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Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 9) Do a keyword search on “Timothy” in the New Testament, using Bible Gateway or another website or tool, such as a concordance. Save this search—you’ll need it for several questions! [Electronic versions, find [a link here.](#)]
 - a. How does Paul refer to Timothy in scriptures?
 - b. What action verbs pertain to Timothy in the scriptures you see on this search?

- 10) **Read 1 Timothy 4:9-16.** In it, Paul gives explicit directions to Timothy.
 - a. The verbs and tasks appointed to Timothy were major. What were they?
 - b. The obstacles were great. What were they?
 - c. The encouragement he received was supernatural. What was it?
 - d. The mentoring relationship he had with Paul was strong. How so?

- 11) Where are you on the serving spectrum? Have you found a place? If you are experienced and mature, are you leading? Have you taken the next step of inviting others along? Have you found someone to mentor?

This is an excellent time to either get involved or invite a friend to join you. Most people love getting in on the ground floor. And almost everyone loves to be needed. There will be many opportunities to serve at the new campus opening in North

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Mecklenburg. There will also be spots opening up at all campuses as they send out leaders to help launch the newest campus.

Get some quiet time alone with God and pray. Should I go? Should I step up and serve at my current campus? Is there someone I can invite to begin serving with me? Am I staying in the boat by refusing to take a leadership role? Am I intentionally mentoring other young “Timothys” in what it means to be a coworker in the faith?