

What Does God Have Up HIS Sleeve?

by Kyle Castens

How many of you have ever asked the question, “What does God have up His sleeve?” Sometimes we would like to know what tomorrow brings. For instance, “will I pass my calculus exam?” or “will I be called on to translate in Spanish class?” Other times this question goes much deeper. No longer is the concern what will happen tomorrow, but “what will happen to me for the rest of my life?” Questions start to arise concerning college, and what one’s major will be, and what to do with one’s life. In all of these questions, life can become a bit confusing and overwhelming. There are so many things to do, so many things you are interested in, and so many things you would like to try.

When it comes to preparing students at the Seminary for the Pastoral Ministry, many often ask the question, “How do I know I have the call?” You might be one of them. This question could have a deep impact on you for the rest of your life! Whew! No pressure there!

It is at this point that we rely on God’s Word to guide us. Paul says in Timothy, “*This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of bishop, he desires a good work,*” (1 Timothy 3:1). What are God’s plans for my future? Well, we are not always sure of the answer; however, we are certain of the gifts, abilities, treasures, interests, and desires the Lord gives us. So, rather than asking the question “do I have the call?” ask “do I have the desire?” This question could give you a better understanding to where the Lord is leading. Can you answer that question for yourself, “Do I have the desire?” This question will be much easier to answer as you continue to search Scripture, and talk with those shepherds who are before you in

your congregation. These men may be able to answer your questions and encourage you no matter where the Lord may lead.

But the question, “How do I know if I have the call?” may still be lingering in your mind. As we look through the Word, we see that this question is not long debated. For the people of God, the call came in different ways. For Moses, the call came through a burning bush, but for Matthias, it came by the voice of the 11 apostles. One way or the other, the call was always evident, always heard. Amazingly, so it is for us even today as I heard physically, clearly, loudly, in front of hundreds of witnesses, Christ’s call through His Body for me to serve as a shepherd.

What are God’s plans for my future? This is what we know for sure; God’s will is that you “may be His own and live under Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness (SC, Explanation 2nd Article of Apostles Creed).” His foremost call is for you to be His own through the waters of Holy Baptism. I would strongly encourage those of you who have a desire and interest in the pastoral ministry to pursue it. Talk with your pastor, visit the seminaries, and enjoy the role the Lord has given you in His Church. “What are God’s plans for the future?” Everything good!

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