

## Fighting the Slow Drift

May 20, 2018

God has a calling – \_\_\_\_\_ – for each and every one of us.

*The word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:4–5, NIV)*

And we all have reasons – \_\_\_\_\_ – about why we can’t fulfill God’s call.

*But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 1:7–8, NIV)*

And we all have \_\_\_\_\_ about how our calling will turn out.

*See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. (Jeremiah 1:10, NIV)*

But what happens when we reach \_\_\_\_\_ -

\_\_\_\_\_ and things aren’t turning out the way we had hoped?  
*You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. (Jeremiah 20:7, NIV)*

So how do we deal with the disappointment that we feel? How do we finish well?

1. Make a decision about who you are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in life.

*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24, NIV)*

2. Make a decision about how you are going to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

*Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.” (Mark 10:42, NIV)*

3. Make a new decision about your call. Are you going to

\_\_\_\_\_ or not?

*But if I say, “I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,” his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. (Jeremiah 20:9, NIV)*

Jeremiah came to the end of his life with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22–23, NIV)*

God ultimately worked things out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV)*

God is far more interested in deepening \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ than he is in elevating our

\_\_\_\_\_.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)*

God is far more interested in deepening \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_.