



**Week Three: "A Time To Take A Stand"**  
Ken Miller

**I. A Higher Calling**

- So what has God called you and me to?
- In a sense, there are two kinds of calling:
  1. One is our \_\_\_\_\_ calling as followers of Christ
    - This is *by* Him, *to* Him, and *for* Him
    - We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ (God)
    - Not to \_\_\_\_\_ (fatherhood, politics, teaching)
    - And not to \_\_\_\_\_ (Texas, Tennessee, Thailand)
    - Ephesians 4:1-4
  2. But there is a \_\_\_\_\_ calling
    - It is to think, speak, live, and act for Him in whatever we do (Colossians 3:17)
    - We represent God the Father in whatever we do (2 Corinthians 5:20)
    - We are called to be...
      - ... godly fathers
      - ... godly husbands
      - ... godly businessmen
      - ... godly employees
      - ... godly employers
      - ... godly church members
      - ... godly bankers, lawyers, chefs, IT professionals, builders, retirees, etc.
    - Our secondary callings are our \_\_\_\_\_ to God's initial summons
  3. The challenge:
    - To keep the primary calling our highest priority
    - I am called first to a relationship with Him
    - Then that relationship should ALWAYS result in a life of calling

**II. The Call to Take a Stand**

- We live in difficult days (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:13-16)
- We are called to a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:13-14, 1 Corinthians 16:13)
- We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy (James 4:7)
- We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the good fight (1 Timothy 6:12)

1. A call to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 1:8-12)
  - Our calling is a \_\_\_\_\_ one
  - Our calling is completely God's \_\_\_\_\_
  - Our calling may result in \_\_\_\_\_

2. A call to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 6-7)
  - Stephen was first called to a \_\_\_\_\_ with God

*"...they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit..." – Acts 6:5*

*He was "...full of the Spirit and of wisdom..." – Acts 6:3*

*He was "...full of grace and power..." – Acts 6:8*

*"...his face was like that of an angel..." – Acts 6:15*

*"They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke." – Acts 6:10*

- Then he was called to \_\_\_\_\_
  - He was called to a food ministry to widows
  - It wasn't glamorous
  - It wasn't done before crowds
  - It was behind the scenes
  - It was a simple work of love and compassion
- His primary calling resulted in a \_\_\_\_\_ calling
  - He did great wonders and signs
  - He shared the gospel every chance he got
  - He spoke the truth boldly
  - The same Holy Spirit that qualified him for his behind-the-scenes ministry was empowering him for more visible ministry
- Stephen was \_\_\_\_\_ with God
- His relationship with God \_\_\_\_\_ him for service for God
- His humble \_\_\_\_\_ to God resulted in Him being used by God
- The disciples had not appointed him to \_\_\_\_\_, but to serve widows
- His calling was not to preaching, but to \_\_\_\_\_ out his primary calling
- He was not \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel

*"A time to stand" is a time to behave as our Lord would wish us to behave. A time to behave is a time to believe as he has taught us to believe. A time to believe is a time to move from small, cozy formulations of faith to knowing what it is to be called by him as the deepest, most stirring, and most consuming passion of our lives. – Os Guinness, The Call*

ANSWER KEY: primary, Someone, something, somewhere, secondary, response, salt, light, reconciliation, stand firm, resist, fight, courage, holy, doing, suffering, stand, relationship, serve, secondary, in love, qualified, surrender, preach, living, ashamed