



# [MATH]

NUMBERS DONT LIE

## 3.30.2014 GROUP DISCUSSION

MESSAGE BY SHAWN JOHNSON

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

**Can you think of a time when you knew for sure (even in hindsight) that God was asking for your obedience and you either did, or did not obey him? If you are comfortable, share that experience with the group.**

### SHARE

Welcome back to our series entitled, "Math." There is a saying that most of us have heard before and that is "numbers don't lie." When it comes to the creator God, his numbers don't lie either. God's math is always right, every time, even when it seems it doesn't add up.

God's promises are true and we can trust his words. Sometimes, God will ask us to add things to our lives and other times God will ask us to subtract things from our lives; things that are holding us back from what he has for us. Other times God will even do division and separate us from unhealthy relationships or addictions. No matter how life might appear right now, we can trust God's math. We can trust that God is "greater than" our circumstances, problems or challenges. We can trust that God has the answers, even when we don't see them right now.

In his message this week, Shawn gave the equation  $Call + F \pm O = Destination$ . The basic premise to this is that when God calls on us, there is always an element of fear, and whether or not we obey despite our fear determines our destination. Every person who calls himself or herself a follower of Christ was saved and redeemed for a purpose. Whether or not we obey when God calls will play a crucial part in us realizing that purpose.

The biggest challenge to wanting to find what God might be calling us to is truly believing that we have a purpose and a reason for why we are here.

#### Read the following passages:

Jeremiah 1:5  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Psalm 139:13-16  
John 15:16

Acts 26:16  
Matthew 28:19  
Romans 8:28  
John 3:16

**Does anything stand out to you about these passages?**

**Is there anyone who struggles with really believing that there is a larger calling on his or her life? If yes, why do you think that is?**

**Why is it so easy for us to doubt the fact that God saved us for a reason?**

## **GROW**

We understand that fear is natural when God asks us to do something. And when it comes to carrying out the will of God, he doesn't typically ask us to do things we are already doing.

Let's face it, most of us will not be called to something on the level that Moses was, but that doesn't mean that what God is asking of us is any less important or that the implications of our obedience can't be incredibly powerful. In addition, the magnitude of the task has no bearing on whether or not we should push through our fear and obey. If God is asking something of us, big or small, obedience is important.

**Read Exodus 3:7-12**

In this passage (and the first part of ch.4), we find God and Moses in a dialogue in which God appears to be "trying" to persuade Moses to go.

**Is there anything about this that stands out to you?**

**Being the creator of the universe, why wouldn't he just make Moses do it, or threaten him if he won't?**

**What implications does this have on our lives and our ability to choose obedience or disobedience?**

The Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible says this about the dialogue:

He [Moses] objects his own insufficiency for the service he was called to (v. 11): Who am I? He thinks himself unworthy of the honour, and not equal to the task. He thinks he wants courage, and therefore cannot go to Pharaoh, to make a demand which might cost the demandant his head: he thinks he wants skill, and therefore cannot bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt; they are unarmed, undisciplined, quite dispirited, utterly unable to help themselves; it is morally impossible to bring them out. Moses was incomparably the fittest of any man living for this work, eminent for learning, wisdom, experience, valour, faith, holiness; and yet he says, Who am I?

\*Note, the more fit any person is for service commonly the less opinion he has of himself.

**Why is it true that more often than not, the more able a person the lower opinion they have of themselves?**

**Do you think that has anything to do with who God calls?**

## MOVE

In last week's message about "addition," we found that **what we have + the power of God = what we need**. The truth is, God will never call us to or ask us to obey an impossible task. If God is calling us to something, we are capable to do it and able to obey if we trust. We need to remember that like most things, God is not asking us to obey because He needs us in order to complete a task. He asks us to obey for our benefit; because of how faithful obedience will draw us to more depth and life in Him.

All of us have to make the choice: will it be **plus** obedience, or **minus** obedience? In the story of Moses and throughout scripture, we see time and time again the amazing work God does in and through the lives of those who obey. Conversely, through scripture we know what can happen when we rebel and blatantly run from what we know God is asking of us.

It's plain and simple: we cannot walk in close relationship with Him and be willfully disobedient to His call.

A classic example of the lengths God will go through to get our attention is Jonah.

**Read Jonah 1**

**Did anything about this story stand out to you?**

**Why do you think such great lengths were taken to get Jonah to obey?**

While it's pretty clear that God doesn't come chasing us down with a fish to get our attention, it's also clear that He takes obedience seriously.

**Is there something in our lives right now God is asking for obedience in?**

**What is keeping you from doing it?**

**Does that reveal anything to you about your heart and where you stand on this issue of obedience?**

Conclude with any thoughts or questions

## PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

## TO GO

**Ephesians 3:19-21:**

...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.