

"God has a task for every one of us, which is made to measure for us."

William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, The Saint Andrew Press, 1965, volume 2, page 19

"Looking at the masses of humanity, driven this way and that way, the Christian teaching is apt to be forgotten that for each individual soul there is a vocation as real as if the soul were alone upon this planet."

Mark Rutherford, *Mark Rutherford's Deliverance*, Hodder and Stroughton, 1913, page 79

"Our vocation is to belong to Jesus. The easiest way and the simplest way of belonging is this: the Holy Spirit makes us do that giving of self, the total surrender of God, without any reflection, without any counting the cost. We call that 'blind surrender.' It is like Our Lady: when she knew that the Lord was calling, she said yes. And she never withdrew that yes. It was a blind, continual yes in her life. It is the same thing for us. The whole of our life must come to that one word yes. Yes to God: that is holiness. We allow God to take from us whatever he wants and we accept whatever he gives with joy. That is yes in action."

Mother Teresa, *Jesus, the Word to be Spoken*, compiled by Brother Angelo Devananda, William Collins Sons & Co., 1990, page 26

"The word *vocation* comes for the Latin *vocare*, which means 'to call.' God calls us together into one people fashioned in the image of Christ. It is by Christ's vocation that we are gathered. Here we need to distinguish carefully between vocation and career. In a world that puts such emphasis on success, our concern for career constantly tends to make us deaf to our vocation. When we are seduced into believing that our career is what counts, we can no longer hear the voice that calls us together; we become so preoccupied with our own plans, projects, or promotions that we push everyone away who prevents us from achieving our goals.

"Career and vocation are not mutually exclusive. In fact, our vocation might require us to pursue a certain career. Many people have become excellent doctors, lawyers, technicians, or scientists in response to God's call heard in the community. Quite often, our vocation becomes visible in a specific job, task, or endeavour. But our vocation can never be reduced to these activities. As soon as we think that our careers *are* our vocation, we are in danger of returning to the ordinary and proper places governed by human competition and of using our talents more to separate ourselves from others than to unite ourselves with them in common life.

"A career disconnected from a vocation divides; a career that expresses obedience to our vocation is the concrete way of making our unique talents available to the community. Therefore, it is not our careers, but our vocation, that should guide our lives."

Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Seeds of Hope*, Darton, Longman & Todd, 1989, page 94.

"Our vocation is to live in the Spirit – not to be more and more remarkable animals."

Anthony Bloom – Russian-born Orthodox monk, bishop, spiritual teacher. Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild, *The Lion Christian Quotation Collection*, BCA, 1997, page 233

"Love remains the vocation of all who are baptised, and love is a sign of God to the whole community. Yet love hurts. Here it is that some of us make our most costly mistakes. Here it is often that our personal story looks most wobbly and incomplete. Here it is also, that we come to know God not only as our Creator, but as our redeemer, our lover, the hound of heaven who will not let us go."

R.S. Thomas – Welsh poet. Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild, *The Lion Christian Quotation Collection*, BCA, 1997, page 321

"To love as Jesus loves: that is not only the Lord's precept, it is our vocation. When all is said and done it is the one thing we have to learn, for it is perfection."

René Voillaume – French Little Brother of Jesus and spiritual writer. Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild, *The Lion Christian Quotation Collection*, BCA, 1997, page 326

....all ministry is sharing in Christ's ministry who calls improbable people to impossible tasks. It is a gift, never a possession: a chorus, never a solo....

*Anthony Russell Bishop of Dorchester*

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*William Barclay, The Gospel of Matthew, The Saint Andrew Press, 1965, volume 2, page 19*

We must not restrict the ministry of Jesus to within church walls. He would be appalled! Ministry involves loving a serving the whole community.

*Anon*

Ministry is the work we do for God in the world.

*Anon*

Ministry can turn your world upside down. It makes you rethink your life and change your priorities.

*Anon*

Ministry, for me, is a reflection of the Holy Trinity. The persons of the Trinity look out of themselves towards 'the needs' of the other; listening and serving, not out of a sense of duty but of an overflowing love. Called to be the body of Christ, we too, are called to look out of ourselves both towards the world and towards the building up of the body. Our ministry, in so far as it is a sharing of Christ's ministry, is thus an outward sign of God's love for his created order.

*Trevor Willmott Chair of Edward King Institute*

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

*Frederick Buechner*

There's an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow. No-one else can speak my message, or sing my song or offer my act of love. These are only entrusted to me. *From 'Called or Collared' by Francis Dewar.*

Vocation is about the purpose of life, about finding the place and the people, in you and around you, to which you are being called so that you can be completely yourself, can become whole, and can be the very best you are capable of being.

*Henri Nouwen.*