



The Ark Community

98: THE CALLING

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Some years ago I had a dream about the sea, as I swam deeper and deeper I suddenly noticed something on the seabed, it was a little chain, a necklace, similar to a rosary with a cross at the end. I tried swimming deeper to reach it, with all my strength I tried to descend deeper... but my arms and legs failed me and I couldn't reach it. While my limbs were straining, something took me back to the surface and I saw the cross becoming more and more distant, and then I woke up. ... I wondered what was the meaning of my Dream; I prayed for an answer but then eventually gave up thinking about it.

Days passed by, now years have gone. I have lived the way a good Christian should, or at least I was trying to. But I missed something; I missed something that could give a concrete and useful meaning to my life, a purpose, **my purpose!**

I've started to wonder which plan God had designed for me, which was my purpose upon this earth. Then, unexpectedly an event touched me deeply and I couldn't understand the reason.

I spent three days in total darkness, three days of silence, loneliness, far from everything and everyone, three days in which it seemed I was sinking, I was really hitting the bottom. In those days I prayed, cried, shouted and screamed to God – what was He trying to tell me? What did He want me to do? **After the darkness, finally there was light**, an answer arrived and it was my purpose, **MY CALLING!**

Together **with the answer arrived peace, and with the peace arrived change**. I was ready, **ready to take a new risk**, ready to follow 'my' way as revealed by God, the 'way' God has prepared for me. **His way is my way**. By losing myself in God's will – I found mine. The sense of emptiness I learned to live with has disappeared. The emptiness is now filled with the feeling of finally knowing What, Where and How to realize my calling.

Our Father longs for us to experience an abundant and prosperous life, but He has also **predestined** us, designing for us a wonderful and unique work. And the moment we realize what our destiny is, when the LIGHT comes, it's like we received a new boost of power, a new lease of life. It is this new 'lease of life' that makes us move with the same enthusiasm and excitement of a child who has just received an important task from his Father and immediately does his best to please him. It is in this, in this realizing our calling that resides our full realization and human happiness.

"To trust God does not mean to see everything clearly according to our criteria, it does not mean to carry out what we have planned; to trust God means to empty ourselves of ourselves and to deny ourselves, because only one who accepts losing himself for God can be 'just' as St. Joseph, that is, can conform his own will to God's and thus be fulfilled." (Benedict XVI)

I've learned that sometimes we need to hit the bottom in order to go up to surface but this time I WAS ABLE TO TAKE MY CROSS!