

Dear NU Family,

This week, I had several opportunities to connect with individuals who are passionately pursuing God's calling on their lives. Two students who specifically impressed me are studying at one of NU's church partners. Both of these students were expressing their passion to reach people for Jesus and to go to countries where the gospel is not readily embraced or proclaimed. When they talked about studying at NU, it was clear they wanted to be equipped to the best of their ability to do what God has planned for them. As I spoke with them, I was reminded of a pastor friend who encouraged me by saying that preparation is the key to opening doors. This is one of the primary reasons I continued to pursue graduate studies. A person never knows what door God will open. When He does, it is best to be prepared for that moment.

Winston Churchill made this statement about preparation: "For every man there comes that special moment when he is physically tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing - unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be his finest hour."

Scripture is full of people who prepared for their moment. In many cases, they didn't even know how they would eventually be used, yet they prepared for their future by faithfully fulfilling their current role and learning from their experiences. Esther saved her people by gaining favor with the king. David became a great warrior, and musician by laboring faithfully as a lowly shepherd. When God called Saul to become the apostle Paul and preach the Word to the entire known world, he was able to use all his education in the scripture, his teaching ability, understanding of culture, his Roman citizenship and even his tent-making skill to carry out the assignment God prepared for him.

It is difficult at times to know God's plan. Even if a person thinks they know it, God may radically change the course of one's life at some point, as he did for Esther, David, Paul, and even for me. There are certain things a person can do to prepare for that moment when God calls. The question is, what are you doing?

Jesus, I pray for people who are working hard in their studies to be ready to make a difference in this world. Encourage those who are discouraged, give a dream to those who feel they are losing hope, and for those who are walking in faith, protect their mind from doubt. Thank you for a community of believers who are walking in obedience to fulfill your plan and build your Kingdom. In Jesus name, Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Nov 6 | Chapel: Anne Kuchera | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, Nov 6 | Pursuit | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, Nov 8 | Chapel: Dr. Sarah Drivdahl | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, Nov 10 | Chapel: Sarah Jobson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Blessings,

Phil Rasmussen, M.A.

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