

25. CLAY

BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN CLAY JARS, SO THAT IT MAY BE MADE CLEAR THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY POWER BELONGS TO GOD AND DOES NOT COME FROM US. WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT DRIVEN TO DESPAIR; PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-9

Calling in Disability

Music calls us as God calls our names
God calls us to participate in the music of life
God's call can be fresh and clear like a hip-hop beat
It can be worn and ambiguous like a spiritual or folk song
God's call can be raw like spoken-word poetry
It can be refined like opera

The music of life calls us to respond, all of us.
Instruments animate notes on paper
Percussion calls us to respond with claps, stomps, and snaps
Melodies lead us on a journey
Harmonies cause us to pause in awe.
Whole or broken, our vocals bring life to the written words as they are realized through song.

Relationship calls us as God calls our names
God's call can lead you to new possibilities like the first day of school
It can lead you back to a path you left, like reconciliation with an estranged family member.
God's call can lead you to a road less traveled, like finding new friends after a big move
It can lead you to the beaten path, like marrying your high school sweetheart,
Or living the struggle to continue to hear the call when one's body fails,...again and again.
God's call can be a still voice, like a mother's comforting embrace
It can be a loud thunder, like a warning or an encouragement from a passionate friend or spouse or parent

God's call can reveal itself like clay
To be molded in the joy of celebration, like a graduation
It can be molded through tears of mourning and grief, like those lost on the journey
God's call can be molded in the challenges of quizzes, tests, and exams
It can be molded in the challenges of not knowing.
God's call can be shaped through community in families and chapels.
It can be expanded through the love of communities and friends

God calls us through instruments and vocals
God calls us as his clay, his creation.
God calls us into relationship through experiences
God calls us young and old
God calls us broken and redeemed
God calls us in spite of ourselves
God calls us all.

Exploration Questions

- In what way is your own story related to, or impacted by, this story of a struggle to live out a calling in life?
- How is brokenness related to calling?
- How has your own brokenness fueled or hampered your trust in God?
- Where do you currently find calling amid your own brokenness?