

Stan Patterson: Worship
Reflections on Calling
April 21, 2005

Grown up as farmer and able to tangibly measure progress: milked so many cows, plowed 80 acres of corn, and then came home at night to children.

Didn't know if he could leave the house and go to church board meetings at night.

When you work with people there is no guarantee that what you do will be lasting.

Remembers the first couple that he baptized, a reason for rejoicing—I've accomplished something.

Satan assaults almost always in the first year those who are baptized.

Came back from seminary and visited with them separately after they had separated in their marriage.

The thing that sustained me in all those disappointments was my calling.

Went out to a corner of the building at Nameless Valley Ranch and wept.

Thought about his biology degree and connected with University of Texas there in San Antonio—could not send in his application; because he knew that God had spoken to him in a calling to ministry.

Judges 9 speaks to leadership and calling.

Trees go out speaking to a king.

Trees say to the olive tree, come sway over us.

The olive tree says no, I can't. I'm busy with what I'm doing.

The trees then say to the fig tree, come sway over us.

The fig tree knew its calling and said no thanks!

Trees then go to the grapevine, leaving the realm of trees.

No!

Then, they go to the brambles, invasive type kudzu vines—beautiful greenery.

Beautiful form of tree but vines had killed the pine tree.

Search committee asked the bramble to sway over us.

Fig tree, olive tree, and vine all knew their calling.

The bramble was first one to show coercion—if you don't show your stuff I'll present fire on you.

The bramble was already to use force, not sanctioned by true leadership.

Leadership is about calling, not doing it or else.