

Some Interesting Doubles

- A. God is known to double a name, especially of someone or something under His special care to get their attention:
1. Moses. **EXO 3:4.**
 2. Saul. **ACT 9:4.**
 3. Martha. **LUK 10:41.**
 4. Simon. **LUK 22:31.**
 5. Jerusalem. **MAT 23:37.**
- B. One of the most stirring examples of double-calling is God's dealings with Abraham.
1. After waiting about twenty-five years for the birth of the promised son and watching him grow into a young lad, God called, "...Abraham..." and instructed him to offer Isaac. **GEN 22:1-2.**
 2. On the basis of that simple imperative, Abraham obeyed promptly. **GEN 22:3 c/w PSA 119:60.**
 - a. Abraham walked in Job's understanding of God. c/w **JOB 1:21.**
 - b. Abraham trusted God to keep His promise because he saw Christ in it. **HEB 11:17-19; JOH 8:56.**
 3. God interrupted the fatal blow, calling, "...Abraham, Abraham..." (**GEN 22:10-11**).
 - a. This certainly got Abraham's attention!
 - b. His reply was "...Here am I." This was the same basic reply Abraham had given to the first call in **GEN 22:1.**
 - c. There was no embittered reply like, "Now what?" or even "Thank you, Lord, I was beginning to doubt your faithfulness."
 - d. Faith's reply to God should be the same in times of ease and distress: when God smiles on us and even when He challenges or chastens us.
 - e. Obedience is easy in easy times but what about when we are pressed out of measure? **JER 12:5 c/w PRO 24:10.**
 - f. A lesson that I am slowly learning over the years is that any trouble, affliction or grief that I must go through is either a test of my faith (in which case I should be thankful and steadfast) or a chastening for disobedience (in which God is always just and is dealing with me as His son, **HEB 12:7**), and this helps me.
 - g. God does not now audibly call from heaven but His gospel calls men for its duty, and the best reply is as Abraham's. c/w **1SAM 3:9; ISA 6:8; ACT 9:6.**
 - h. The gospel is to be preached "...in season, out of season" (**2TI 4:2**) and received in like manner. Skip the "convenient season" idea. **ACT 24:25.**
- C. When God desires to underscore the certainty of a thing or command our special attention, He is prone to double the message. c/w **GEN 41:32.**
1. The Law and the Prophets spoke of Christ. **JOH 1:45; 5:39.**
 - a. Both spoke that He should suffer, die and rise again. **LUK 24:44-46.**
 - b. Both spoke that through Him, light should be sent to the Gentiles. **ACT 26:22-23.**
 - c. Both spoke that righteousness comes not by the law but by Christ's faith. **ROM 3:20-22.**
 - d. Both spoke that Israel's true hope is His resurrection power. **ACT 24:14-15.**
 - e. Both have a conviction on par with resurrection power. **LUK 16:29-31.**
 2. There are two testaments that declare Christ: the Old by prophecy, types, shadows and figures; the New by declaration of His person and works, a better light. **2PE 1:19.**
 3. Both the Father and the Son bear witness of Christ. **JOH 8:17-18.**
 4. Pay special attention to the times when Jesus says, "Verily, verily..." since they are some of

- the most profound declarations of His doctrine. **JOH 3:3, 5, 11; 5:19, 24-25; 6:47; 8:51.**
5. Consider even the declaration of His solemn judgments. **REV 18:6.**
- D. There was one profound time when His double-call arrested nothing. **MAR 15:34.**
1. God spared Abraham's son but not His own. **ROM 8:32.**
 2. But this was necessary to implement a double-call for the elect's sake:
 - a. the call to inward life from spiritual death. **JOH 5:25; ROM 8:30.**
 - b. the call to resurrection of the body and change. **JOH 5:28-29; ROM 8:11.**
 3. The Father and Son work together to call the elect unto eternal life. **1PE 5:10.**
- E. The work of the elect's eternal salvation is completed, eliminating any doubling. **HEB 1:3; 9:12.**
1. Christ will never have to be re-offered. **HEB 9:28; 1PE 3:18.**
 2. Believers must understand that the work has been done for them. Their works do not regulate His work. **2TI 1:9; TIT 3:5.**
 3. Adding sinners' works to Christ's work amounts to "double, double toil and trouble" (Shakespeare's Macbeth), the stuff of witchcraft. **GAL 3:1.**