



## Source Sheet

Between Self and Others

### 02: The Whole World Was Created for Me

How do we decide what our calling should be? Is it something our life path leads us to? Or something we decide we want and then we set out to do? In building a life, how do we decide how we want to affect the world with our individual and unique gifts and talents? Where does vocation meet avocation? Or are they separate?

#### Source 1 — Solomon Asks for Wisdom - 1 Kings 3:5-14

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask, what shall I grant you?”

ה' בגבעון נראה יהוה אל-שלמה בחלום הלילה  
ויאמר אלהים שאל מה אתו-לך

6 Solomon said, “You dealt most graciously with Your servant **my father David, because he walked before You in faithfulness and righteousness and in integrity of heart. You have continued this great kindness to him by giving him a son to occupy his throne, as is now the case.**

וויאמר שלמה אתה עשית עם-עבדך דוד אבי  
חסד גדול באשר ה'לך לפניך באמת ובצדקה  
ובישורת לבב עמך ותשמר-לו את-החסד הגדול  
הזה ותתן-לו בן ישב על-כסאו כלום הזה

**7** And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David; **but I am a young lad, with no experience in leadership.**

ז ועתה יהונה אלהי אתה המלכת את עבדך תחת דוד אבי ואנכי נער קטן לא אדע צאת וקא

**8** Your servant finds himself in the midst of the people You have chosen, a people too numerous to be numbered or counted.

ח ועבדך בתוך עמך אשר בחרת עם־ךב אשר לא־ימנה ולא יספר מרב

**9** Grant, then, Your servant a listening heart to judge Your people, to distinguish between good and bad; for who can judge this vast people of Yours?”

ט ונתת לעבדך לב שמע לשפט את־עמך להבין ביו־טוב לרע כי מי יוכל לשפט את־עמך הכבד הזה

**10** The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

י וייטב הדבר בעיני אדני כי שאל שלמה את־הדבר הזה

**11** And God said to him, “Because you asked for this—you did not ask for long life, you did not ask for riches, you did not ask for the life of your enemies, but you asked for discernment in dispensing justice—

יא ויאמר אלהים אליו יען אשר שאלת את־הדבר הזה ולא־שאלת לה ימים רבים ולא־שאלת לה עשר ולא שאלת גפש איביו ושאלת לה הבין לשמע משפט

**12** I now do as you have spoken. **I grant you a wise and discerning mind; there has never been anyone like you before, nor will anyone like you arise again.**

יב הנה עשיתי כדבריה הנה נתתי לה לב חכם ונבון אשר כמוה לא־היה לפניו ואחריו לא־יקום כמוה

**13** And I also grant you what you did not

יג וגם אשר לא־שאלת נתתי לה גם־עשר

**ask for—both riches and glory all your life—the like of which no king has ever had.**

גַּם-כְּבוֹד אֲשֶׁר לֹא-הָיָה כְּמוֹךָ אִישׁ בַּמְּלָכִים  
כָּל-יָמָיךָ

**14 And I will further grant you long life, if you will walk in My ways and observe My laws and commandments, as did your father David.”**

יָד וְאֵם | תִּלְךָ בְּדַרְכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֵי וּמִצְוֹתַי כַּאֲשֶׁר  
הָלַךְ דָּוִד אָבִיךָ וְהִאֲרַכְתִּי אֶת-יָמֶיךָ

### Discussion Questions

- How does Solomon seem to be feeling in this moment of talking to God? Share some words to describe how you think he’s feeling.
- What do you make of Solomon’s request? He’s talking to God, he could ask him anything!
- Does it seem like the “right” request? Why or why not?
- Solomon receives more than he asks for from God. Use your imagination: Why do you think God granted him more than he asked for based on his request?

### Source 2 — Chassidic Teaching, Rabbi Simcha Bunem of Pershyscha

According to Rabbi Bunim of Pershyscha, everyone should have two pockets, each containing a slip of paper. On one should be written: “I am but dust and ashes,” and on the other: “The world was created for me.” From time to time we must reach into one pocket, or the other. The secret of living comes from knowing when to reach into each.

### Discussion Questions

- What strikes you when you read this source?
- When do you think it's relevant to reach into each pocket?
- Can you think of times in your life when you've acted in either category? Share some examples with the group.
- Which one do you tend to reach into more? What are the upside and downsides of each?
- What kind of an effect might it have on you to utilize these mantras as a way of moving in the world?

### Source 3 — The remarkable story of TCU's Rhodes scholar, Caylin Moore, quarterback for Texas Christian University

On a Tuesday night in October, TCU safety Caylin Moore stands on the football field at O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, Texas, talking about the perfect pushup. Growing up in Southern California, Moore's family struggled financially. Dinner often came from the Dollar Menu at McDonald's or Carl's Jr. There were times when Moore's mother didn't have enough money to feed all three of her kids. "So I would just do pushups to take the pain from my stomach to the pain in my arms."

Moore is the son of a convicted murderer and a sexual assault survivor. He spent most of his childhood sharing a bed with his mother and two siblings, living in a house without hot water on the crime-ridden border of Compton and Carson, south of Los Angeles. He collected cans and bottles to buy football cleats, blossomed in Snoop Dogg's youth league and went on to play in high school and college. He has been a Fulbright scholar and, yes, a campus custodian.

Last month, he was among the 32 men and women awarded the 2017 Rhodes scholarship, and next year, Moore will study at Oxford University in England. "I look at everything I've been through, everything I'm doing, it's enough to reduce me to tears sometimes," he said. "I've been through amazing, impossible things, to a point where it's like, 'Wow, hard work and opportunity wasn't the only thing that did that.' There was some divine intervention."

From an early age, Moore understood the link between football and education. When he posted straight A's in seventh grade, he won an award from the Snoop League and received a laptop computer from Snoop Dogg, which Moore keeps to this day. At Verbum Dei High School, an all-male Catholic school, Moore became an all-conference quarterback and made the honor roll every semester. Moore applied to 25 colleges and was accepted by 19. He picked Marist College, along the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, New York, which provided a strong financial aid package and a chance to play in the FCS. Moore didn't hesitate to move across the country. While at Marist, an email arrived. Moore had qualified to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship. He called his mother. "She said, 'Coming where we come from, that's not something you dare dream for your kids, to even apply for that,'" Moore said. "You don't have any of those conversations. She cried from the mere fact that I was applying."

A new challenge would test his resolve. He had expected big things on the field in 2014 but sustained a back injury while throwing before the first game. Moore decided to transfer but wanted to finish the year at Marist. He needed money, so he began doing custodial work. His year began with a realistic goal to start at quarterback. It ended in a hoodie, mopping floors and cleaning up vomit from parties. "A really

humbling experience," he said. Again Moore pushed back, this time even harder. He had always made lists of goals and motivations. At Marist, he wrote two lofty goals on the ceiling of his dorm room: Harvard PhD and D-1 athlete.

On Nov. 19, Taylor Moore waited for the call. Caylin had interviewed for the Rhodes scholarship earlier that day in Los Angeles. At 6:35, the phone rang. Mom, I'm a Rhodes scholar. "There's not a word in English to describe how I feel," Taylor Moore said several days later. "For me, it's a validation from the time he was in the seventh grade, I told him he could be anything he desired to be. He was only limited by his own dreams. Everything that we've gone through, whatever ups and downs, whatever testimonials we have, it feels it was worth it. And he's only 22."

### Discussion Questions

- What is the role of life circumstances in helping us to find our own calling? Have any of you experienced this before?
- How would you compare and contrast Moore's experience to King Solomon's?
- Go back to our previous source - which pocket do you think most framed Caylin's worldview? Based on the story, does it seem like he reached into one pocket more than the other?
- What role does resistance play in our lives in terms of accomplishing our dreams and determining our purpose in life?

### Source 4 — Adam Hides from God - Genesis 3: 8-10

**8** They heard the sound of God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day; and the man and his wife hid from God among the trees of the garden. **9** God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” **10** He replied, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, מִתְהַלֵּךְ  
בְּגֶן--לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם; וַיִּתְחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ,  
מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, בְּתוֹךְ, עֵץ הַגֶּן. וַיִּקְרָא  
יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים, אֶל-הָאָדָם; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, אַיֶּכָּה.  
וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶת-קוֹלִי שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּגֶן; וָאִירָא  
כִּי-עֵרֹם אָנֹכִי, וָאֶחֱבֵא.

### Discussion Questions

- What seems to be the status of the relationship between Adam and God?
- Why is he hiding?
- This story could be a literary example of when challenging things happen in life and we hide. How might *not* hiding help us clarify our personal paths?

### Source 5 — *A God Once Commanded Us*, by Lea Goldberg (translation: Robert Friend; *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*)

A god once commanded us to stand strong  
under the terrible tree of life  
And in the black wind of the years we stood  
Stricken with expectation --  
Perhaps the fruit would fall at our feat.

But nothing happened.  
And on the day of secret reckoning  
Between him and us  
we saw a hunched landscape, brown leaves  
Falling  
And felt on our faces  
A cold wind blowing

Then said a Voice: this is your day of freedom.  
This is everything. And this is good.

### Discussion Questions

- What strikes you about this poem?
- While the Biblical text portrays Adam and Eve as ashamed of their actions (presumably because they disobeyed God), Lea Goldberg's poem sees this turn of events in a positive light, perhaps even as an act of resistance? Why? What's your interpretation?
- Can you think of a time in your own life when you expected something would go your way, and then it didn't? How did you react to that experience? Did you learn any powerful lessons during the process?"
- Is resistance necessary for us to find our purpose in the world??"

**Source 6 — *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* (2000), Parker Palmer**



Vocation does not come from willfulness. It comes from listening. I must listen to my life and try to **understand what it is truly about – quite apart from what I would like it to be about – or my life will never represent anything real in the world**, no matter how earnest my intentions. That insight is hidden in the word vocation itself, which is rooted in the Latin for ‘voice.’ Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear.

### Discussion Questions

- Look again at the boldfaced text. Do you agree with Palmer? Why or why not?
- Think back to the Biblical text and Lea Goldberg’s poem we read about Adam and Eve. How do you experience Adam and Eve’s disobedience? Is it about “letting their life speak?” Why or why not?
- So, how do we listen for our individual callings? Share some examples from your own life with the group.

### The Personal Download (Chevruta)

- Where are you at right now vis a vis finding your calling?
- How did you come to a place of finding or exploring your calling? Were there particular life events that shaped who you are and why you choose to do what you do?
- How do you feel your unique talents and skills help the world?
- What is one thing you can do to offer them even more?

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