

August 11, 2004

Dear Kate:

Your presentation of the bible study material last night was excellent! I was greatly impressed at your preparation and especially your enthusiasm in presenting the material. All I can say is “Wow!”

I have a few “how abouts” that came to me as I drove home:

How about giving serious consideration to going to theological seminary to study the Bible in greater depth? You clearly enjoy this. It grows out of your faith, you are good at it and it seems to be developing into a passion with you.

How about exploring doctoral programs in the field of Biblical studies? You would need to learn Hebrew, Greek, some Aramaic and two modern languages (most likely French and German). That is a lot of language study, but if you enjoy this kind of study you would do just fine.

If this interests you, start by looking at the top schools: Yale Divinity School, University of Chicago Divinity School, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Emory University, Graduate Theological Union). Studying with the leading scholars would be important for securing a job later on.

How about delivering a sermon some Sunday? From watching you read scripture on Sunday, I know that you can communicate well from the pulpit. We could start you out gently. The 8:00am service usually has 20-30 people, so it is only slightly larger than the Bible study. You could base your sermon on one of the passages in Matthew that you have already prepared for (though a delivering a sermon is quite different from leading a Bible study!)

Finally, how about discerning if you are being called to ordained ministry?

It is so wonderful to see the joy that flows from you in Bible study. You go about it with a love for God that engages your whole self – mind, body and soul.

Blessings,

Pastor John