

### **Journal Entry # 1**

Overall I genuinely enjoyed reading these first two chapters of the book “Let Your Life Speak: listening for the voice of vocation” by Parker J. Palmer. A lot of the topics discussed in these chapters really related to me and my vocational journey as well. The topic from these chapters that stood out to me the most, was the concept of accepting both the light and dark parts of ourselves and our vocational journey. Personally, this is something that I have struggled with for a long time. I would look at people in the Bible like Saul and Simon who, by knowing God, were able to leave behind their old identities and walk in the path God had for them as Paul and Peter. However, I struggled with this because it caused me to place all my faults and limits on the “old” Xylvie, in hopes that I would be able to leave these parts of me behind and move into my new identity and purpose.

Instead of embracing every part of me, it created hatred towards parts of myself that I didn't approve of. Parts of me that I didn't realize at the time were clues towards my vocation, but were rejected because they also contributed to the bullying I experienced from my peers. It took me a long time to get here and I can tell you for a fact that I experienced many journeys into the darkness. However, I don't regret them because these trials helped me embrace myself, build a relationship with God for myself, and led me into the field of social work where I have the opportunity to help strengthen and empower those who may be journeying in the darkness themselves. I may not be 100% sure what God has in store for me yet, but I know God called me to this field for a reason. Like the reading said, I don't need to be the next Moses, being Xylvie is enough.