

Made for a Mission

Purpose #5

The Purpose Driven Life - Part 6

40 Days of Purpose, February 12, 2023

DAY 1: Purpose #5: Made for a Mission

1. Welcome back to 40 Days of Purpose. We're looking at God's purposes for your life.

2. You're going to do four things in heaven, forever.

- First is worship, to know and love God.
- Second is fellowship, to love people the way Jesus loves people.
- Third is discipleship, living like Christ.
- Fourth is service, finding a meaningful place to serve God.

3. The fifth purpose is the only purpose you can only do on earth. You were made for a mission.

4. In John 17, Jesus is praying this great pastoral prayer.

John 17:18 "In the same way that you gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."

5. Jesus compares the mission He was on to the mission we are to be on! What strikes you about this comparison?

6. After Jesus' resurrection, He commissions the disciples.

John 20:21 "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

7. What are we being sent to do? What is our mission? Paul is very specific.

Acts 20:24 "the most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work the Lord Jesus gave me to tell people the good news about God's grace."

My fifth purpose is to share the Good News.

*Acts 1:8 "You will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: What does it mean to “witness?”

*Acts 1:8 "You will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

What a witness is not:

1. Jesus does **not** say you will be my defense attorney or prosecutor. He does not say you will be my salesman.

2 Timothy 2:23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2. Go back and underline every word that tells us how **NOT** to relate and **circle** every word that tells us how we are to relate.

3. What strikes you personally about 2 Tim. 2:23-26? Do these words encourage you? Do they take away any false guilt?

What a witness is:

4. A witness is somebody who just tells what they have seen and what happened to them. Nobody is a better witness of what God has done in your life than you. Tell people what's happened to you.

Why do we share?

5. God is building a family of people who love and trust Him, that will spend eternity with Him. That is the whole point of history. God wants family members from every nation. One day all believers are going to be gathered together in heaven. This is not Mission Impossible. This is Mission Inevitable. It is going to happen.

6. Jesus healed a man who had been demon-possessed. His life changed dramatically. The man wanted to follow Jesus, as he saw the disciples follow Jesus, but notice what Jesus told the man.

Mark 5:19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis ^x how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: START HERE

Acts 1:8 ...You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

1. Your mission starts with your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, the people who help you with repairs or clerks where you shop or eat.

2. George Gallup discovered that 65 million Americans have no church home, but 34 million of them said they would attend if somebody would just invite them.

3. Sometimes, we run into resistance. Three important qualities are needed:

- **Care:**

1 Cor. 9:19-22 Whatever each person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

4. We get the cart before the horse. People don't care what you know until they know you care. Being a witness starts with being a friend. It starts with care. Resist the urge to blurt out what you want to say too soon. Real friends listen, and build genuine trust and care.

- **Listening:**

James 1:19 Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to get angry.

- **Share: be real.**

5. Think about what God has done for you. This is *your* testimony. Here are some examples. Let this short list spur your own thinking about your testimony.

- God has saved me from my self-centered nature.
- I am now assured of my salvation.
- God is teaching me how to love people that are hard to love.
- God has been changing me from dealing with emptiness to purpose.
- God has been changing me from loneliness to building better relationship.
- God is helping me be more helpful to my wife. Our marriage is getting closer. We are enjoying each other.
- I know I am wonderfully loved by God.
- I enjoy waking up every morning knowing God has forgiven my past.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Learning to talk to people.

1. You won't persuade anyone to Christ by being rude or insensitive. Many times, your sharing will be like handing out a Lay's potato chip, little chips one at a time rather than the whole bag at once.

- **Dare: with sensitivity.**

2. Paul unites several important elements in sharing our testimony.

Colossians 4:4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:5 Conduct yourself wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt so that you may know how to respond to everyone.

a. What's God's role?

b. What's your role?

c. How should you be thinking about the other person?

3. How would any of those concepts change how you relate to lost friends?

4. Remembering why we are still on earth:

Why doesn't God take you to heaven the moment you become a believer? In heaven you can sing, pray, fellowship and serve God in heaven. There are only two things you can't do in heaven. One of them is sin and the other is telling people who don't know the Good News about God's love. Now, which of those two reasons do you think you're still alive for? If somebody hadn't shared it with you, you'd be lost.

2 Peter 3:9 God doesn't want anyone to be lost, but He wants all people to change their hearts and lives!

5. As long as there's one person on earth who doesn't know the Good News, God says we've got to keep reaching out. Do you want to know how much God cares about your neighbors? Jesus Christ died a cruel death. He says, "This is how much I love the people who you work with. This is how much I love your relatives who don't know Christ yet.

6. Pray about your involvement with people. Ask God to help you verbalize your testimony.

DAY 5: I must dare to reach beyond my world.

1. If you want God's legacy you must care about what God cares about. Do you know what God cares about more than anything else? People. We have the best news in the world. We have to share it.

*Acts 1:8 "You will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and **to the ends of the earth**."*

... Judea and Samaria ...

2. Love demands I move beyond my comfort zone to people with a different background, ethnicity, education, language, or economics.

3. I just don't hang out with people like me. Christians are called to build bridges, not walls. We're to reach out to others. God expects us to make the first move. God says it in one word, "go."

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

4. God says our love is proved by our actions. Jesus loved people society wanted to ignore, the poor, the imprisoned, the orphaned, the widowed, the aged, the mentally ill, social outcasts, and lepers.

5. Perhaps in your neighborhood and workplace, people's physical needs are already met. Then what is left to do? Here are some ideas for your neighborhood or workplace:

- Take donuts to work once/month.
- Keep up with people's birthdays at work.
- Buy a cake for someone who just had a baby.
- Bake chocolate cookies or brownies to give out.
- Take a co-worker or neighbor out for coffee or lunch.
- Attend another family's kid's soccer game.

6. One day we're going to stand before God. He'll ask, did we really learn to love or was it all just talk? Did we really do anything that showed love or did we just say we loved?

7. The most dangerous prayer you can pray is "God use me." I dare you to say it. Do you have enough courage to say, "God use my life?" Little becomes much when you put it in the Master's hand.

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?