

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 30

Shaped for Serving God

Review from Last Week:

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

Service is not optional.

- You aren't saved **BECAUSE** you Serve people
 - You are saved **SO THAT** you can Serve people
- It is the Heart of being a Servant of Christ
- **STUDY** without **SERVICE** leads to **SPIRITUAL STAGNATION**

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

10) *He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do good things*

- It's WHY we are here...

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

What is holding me back from serving?

- Remember that God LOVES showing his Power through WEAK people

- God designed you specifically for service to others...
- God formed every animal on this planet with a special area of expertise: some run, some hop, some fly, some swim, some burrow
 - Each and every animal has a specific area that they are uniquely better than the other animals around them

- The same is true about Humans
- It's easy to see when you look at Basketball players who are just naturally tall, or Football players who are naturally big, or Baseball players who... Well...
- It's harder to see when you look at yourself, but it makes sense if you think about it
- Before an architect designs a building, what do they ask?
 - *What is it's purpose? How is it going to be used?*
- God is better than any architect
- Before God created you he decided what role he wanted you to play on the earth
 - God has already planned out exactly how He wants you to serve Him
 - He shaped you specifically for those tasks
- You are the way you are, because you were made for specific service to God
- Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)
 - 10) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Workmanship here is the same Greek word that we translate as "Poem"
- This is describing some mass-produced, assembly-line job...
 - You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece
- Look at how David describes the process:
- Psalms 139:13-16 (NLT)
 - 13) You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.
 - 14) Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous - and how well I know it.
 - 15) You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.
 - 16) You saw me before I was born. **Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.**
- Nothing that has happened to you in your life is insignificant
 - God uses every day to mold you for the service He has in mind for you

- Let's look at 5 things that make up who you are:

1) Gifts

- We each have different gifts...

- Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

- 6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.
- 7) If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;
- 8) if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- You can't earn the gifts that God gives you, and you don't deserve them...

- That is why they are called "Gifts"!

- You also don't get to choose which Gift you get...

- 1st Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

- 11) It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

- Ephesians 4:11 (NLT)

- 11) He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

- These are special, God-empowered abilities that God gives to believers...

- These Gifts aren't for your own benefit

- They are for the benefit of the Ecclesia

- 1st Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

- 7) A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

- Therefore not everyone has the same Gifts, and no one person has all of the Gifts

- That way we all need one another

- If you aren't using your Gift then you are cheating your Brothers and Sisters

- An unopened Gift is worthless

2) Heart

- The Bible uses the term “Heart” to describe the desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams and affections that are bundled up inside you
- Your Heart is the source of all your motivation
 - What you love to do and what you care most about
- Your Heart reflects who you are:
- Proverbs 27:19 (NLT)
 - 19) As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.
- Each of us have different Hearts...
 - We each instinctively care about some things and not about others
- These are clues to where you should be serving...
- Another word for Heart is **PASSION**
- There are certain subjects that you feel Passionate about, and others you couldn't care less about
- Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention, and others turn you off and bore you to tears
- Over and over the Bible says... *“Serve the Lord your God with all your heart”*
- God wants you to serve him **PASSIONATELY**, not **DUTIFULLY**
- People rarely excel at tasks that they don't enjoy or feel passionate about...
- God wants you to use your natural interests to serve Him and others
- How do you tell when you are serving God from your Heart?
 - The first sign is **ENTHUSIASM**
 - No one has to remind you to do it, you do it for the enjoyment
 - The second sign is **EFFECTIVENESS**
 - Passion drives Perfection. If you love it, you'll get good at it.

- Continued to Lesson 31 -