

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 36

You Were Made For a Mission

REMINDER OF WHERE WE ARE:

Weeks 1-7 - We are not here by accident – God’s plan involves us – We have a Purpose for our existence – Our life will be more complete if we actually live it “on purpose”, instead of just letting it happen

Weeks 8-14 - **Worship** – The FIRST Purpose that we have is to please God - whatever we can do that pleases God is considered Worship - The Heart of Worship is Surrender – Whenever we give up our own will and desire to accept the Father’s He is especially pleased

Weeks 15-21 - **Fellowship** – We were NOT designed to spend our lives alone – God intends for us to share our experience with others – It is only through constant Fellowship with an Ecclesia that we can learn how to Love, and that is the most important thing God wants us to learn

Weeks 22-28 - **Discipleship** – We must become like Christ – Many things transform us – First and foremost is time around the Word – Troubles also transform us – As does Temptation – And lastly Time

Weeks 29-35 - **Ministry** – Each one of us is different, so each one of us has several gifts that we have been given to put to use in God’s service - Coming to understand your own Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences helps you determine how you can best Serve others

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

God works best when I admit my weaknesses.

- God LOVES to use Weak People
- Some of his best work was done through people who felt that they were too weak to do it
 - Abraham told God that he was too old
 - Sarah told God that she was barren
 - Jacob told God that he was scared
 - Moses told God that he stuttered

- Gideon told God that he was scared
- Hannah told God that she was barren
- Jonah told God that he was scared
- A weakness is a “thorn in the flesh” as Paul calls it
 - It is not a sin or a character defect you can change
- A weakness is something that you have no power to change
 - It might be physical, like a handicap
 - It might be emotional, like a personality quirk
 - It might be intellectual, like not being the brightest light in the chandelier
 - It might even be spiritual, like not being naturally warm and hospitable
- You can STILL be useful to God with a weakness, if you:
 - 1) **Admit your Weakness**
 - 2) **Be Content with your Weakness**
 - 3) **Honestly Share your Weakness with Others**
 - 4) **Glory in your Weakness**

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

- 2nd Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

9) *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

God isn't looking for Goliaths... He is looking for little shepherd boys...

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

In what area am I limiting God's power by trying to hide my weaknesses?

What thing have you not even been attempting to try, because you have a real limitation in that area? Trust God and move forward in faith...

- You were made for a Mission
- Christ wanted it that way...
- John 17:18 (MESSAGE)

18) In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.

- Just like your Ministry is to serve Believers, your Mission is to serve Unbelievers
- Our Mission to preach is both shared and unique
 - We share that responsibility with the whole Ecclesia, and should do whatever we can to help the Ecclesia with their preaching efforts
 - We also have the sole responsibility to do whatever we can personally in our own lives to share God's message with the people that we meet
- The word "Mission" comes from the Latin word for "sending"
 - We are "sent" into the world as representatives of Christ
- John 20:21 (NIV)

21) Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

- When Jesus was on the Earth, he was here because he was sent on a mission
 - We are now the "Body of Christ", and we are now sent on that same mission
- Here are SIX Reasons why this mission is important

1) Your mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on Earth

- Jesus was all about reaching out to save people from a life of death
 - All four Gospels AND Acts contain specific and clear messages from Jesus sending us out to preach

• Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

19) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

20) Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- This is NOT Optional
 - This is NOT something that we can do "if we have the time"
 - This is NOT something that we can do "if the opportunity arises"
- This is a Commandment from Christ
 - God is also pretty serious about it:

- Ezekiel 3:18-19 (CEV)

- 18) When I tell wicked people they will die because of their sins, you must warn them to turn from their sinful ways so they won't be punished. If you refuse, you are responsible for their death.
- 19) However, if you do warn them, and they keep on sinning, they will die because of their sins, and you will be innocent.

- You are the only Christadelphian that most people will ever meet

- It's your job to share the Truth with them!

2) Your mission is a wonderful privilege

- Although it's a big responsibility, it is also a big honor

- We have the privilege of not only working FOR God, but working WITH God

- We get to "Partner" with God

- To pray to Him and then to watch His power at work

3) Telling others how they can get Eternal Life is the greatest thing you can do for them

- If your neighbor had Cancer, and you knew the cure, it would be criminal to withhold that information from them

- It's even worse to keep secret the way of salvation from them!

- We have the greatest news in the world, and sharing it with someone is the greatest kindness that we can show them

- We often forget how hopeless life is without the Truth

- Remember that no matter how happy and content people appear to be, without Christ they are lost and headed for a certain death

- EVERYBODY needs salvation!

4) Your mission has eternal significance

- Preaching to someone impacts their eternal destiny

- It's more important than any job, achievement or goal that you reach in your life

- The consequences of your preaching will last for ever, the consequences of your job will not

- Nothing else you do in this life will matter as much as helping someone else establish an eternal relationship with God
- God wants you to share the news where you are today
 - If you are a student, a mother, a preschool teacher, a salesman or a manager, you should be continually looking for people to talk to

5) **Your mission gives your life meaning**

- Only the Kingdom lasts forever
 - Everything else eventually vanishes
 - Look how Paul looked at it:
 - Acts 20:24 (NLT)
- 24) But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love.
- There are people who only YOU can reach
 - If just one person makes it into the Kingdom because of your efforts, then all of your efforts will be worth it
 - Start looking around in your life, and start asking God in your prayers, *"Who have you put in my life for me to share the Truth with?"*

6) **God's timetable for history's conclusion is connected to the completion of your mission**

- Some people don't agree with this, but I think that the Scripture is fairly clear...
- When the Disciples asked Jesus when he was going to return, what was his answer?
 - Acts 1:7-8 (NIV)
 - 7) He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.
 - 8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- When the Disciples wanted to talk about the return of Christ, he switched the conversation to preaching
 - Why?

- Jesus wanted to remind them that his return is contingent on the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world...

- Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

14) And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then, finally, the end will come.

- We've got to get on with it!

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

God created you with the purpose in mind of preaching to others.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

19) *“Go and make disciples of all nations.”*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

What fears have kept me from sharing the Truth with people I know?