

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 37

Sharing Your Life Message

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

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

- 1) Your mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on Earth
- 2) Your mission is a wonderful privilege
- 3) Telling others how they can get Eternal Life is the greatest thing you can do for them
- 4) Your mission has eternal significance
- 5) Your mission gives your life meaning
- 6) God's timetable for history's conclusion is connected to the completion of your mission

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

- Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

19) "Go and make disciples of all nations."

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

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

- The absolute best way to reach people is by sharing **YOUR LIFE MESSAGE**
- God has given you a **message about your life** that He wants you to **share with those around you**
 - **God wants to speak to the world through you**
- You may think you don't have any Message to tell
- But, that is not true...
- 1st John 5:9-10 NIV
 - 9) We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

10) **Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart.**

• **EVERYONE** that believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart

• ***That means you!***

• ***What is your Life Message?***

• Your Life Message contains **4** main parts:

1) Your Life Message Contains Your TESTIMONY

• ***Your Testimony is the Message of how God has made a difference in your life***

• **1st Peter 2:9** (Message)

9) But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, **to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you**

• This is the essence of witnessing...

• ***Simply sharing your personal experiences about God with someone else***

• In a courtroom, witnesses aren't expected to argue the case, quote the law, prove the point or press for a verdict...

• ***Witnesses simply report what happened to them***

• ***But, it's the witnesses that convince the jury!***

• God calls us to be Witnesses, not Attorneys

• He simply wants us to share our Testimony with others

• Sharing your Testimony is an essential part of your **Life Message** because it is unique

• There is no other Testimony just like yours, so only you can share it

• If you don't share it, then it will be lost forever

• You may not be a Bible Scholar, but you are an authority on **YOUR** life

• It's hard to argue with personal experience

• ***Shared stories build bridges between people, and allow relationships to grow***

- It's through these relationships with others that the Gospel spreads from your heart to theirs
- Many people are put off by the Bible, and won't listen to talk about it
 - ***But, people will listen to a humble, personal Message***
- Personal stories capture our attention and we remember them
- Consider the Apostle Paul...
 - No one else in the Bible uses Testimony as often as Paul
- On **SIX** separate occasions we have records of Paul sharing his Life's Message instead of quoting Scripture
- Paul wrote:
 - 1st Peter 3:15 (Message)
 - 15) Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks **why you're living the way you are**, and always with the utmost courtesy.
- *The best way for you to be ready, is to **write out your testimony**, and memorize the main points*
- Most Testimonies easily divide into **four** different parts:
 - a) What your life was like **before** you came to the Truth
 - b) What made you realize that you needed to be **baptized**
 - c) How you went about **committing** your life to Christ
 - d) The **difference** in your life since coming to God
- You will probably want to focus on different parts of this message...
 - You probably have a different Message for every experience in which God has helped you
 - Depending on who you are talking to, what the context is, and where they are in their life, you can custom-fit your Message to your audience
- ***But, the message is always the same...***
 - God has brought meaning and purpose to your life, and they can have it also if they simply turn to God...

- And you can show them how!

2) Your Life Message Contains Your LIFE LESSONS

- You know **certain truths** that God has taught you from your **experiences** with Him
 - These are lessons and insights you have learned about God, relationships, problems, temptations and other aspects of life
- These **Life Lessons** are incredibly valuable to the people around you who are continually struggling with life's problems, temptations and relationships
- Sadly, we often don't learn from what happens to us
 - While it is **wise** to learn from **experience**, it is even **wiser** to learn from the **experiences of others**
- There isn't enough time in life to learn everything by trial and error
 - We should learn by the Life Lessons of one another
- Proverbs 25:12 (TEV)
 - 12) A warning **given by an experienced person to someone willing to listen** is more valuable than jewelry made of the finest gold.
- To get the maximum benefit from the troubles you experience in life
 - Keep a journal of the spiritual lessons you have learned
- Write down your major Life Lessons...
 - And be brave enough to share them with the people around you
- Look at your life and see what lessons you can extract that will be helpful to others
 - *What has God taught me from **failure**?*
 - *What has God taught me from a **lack of money**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **pain and sorrow**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **depression**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **waiting**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **illnesses**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **disappointment**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **my family**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **my ecclesia**?*
 - *What has God taught me from **my critics**?*

3) Your **Life Message** Contains Your **GODLY PASSIONS**

- ***God is a Passionate God!***

- He passionately loves some things
- He passionately hates other things
- As you grow closer to God...
 - You begin to adopt this same characteristic
 - ***You become more Passionate about the things that God cares about***
- Whether it's a problem, a purpose, a principle, or a group of people...
 - You will feel compelled to speak up about it and do what you can to make a difference
- *You'll find that you cannot keep yourself from talking about what you care about most*
- You sometimes find yourself in the same position as Jeremiah:
- Jeremiah 20:9 (CEV)

9) Sometimes I tell myself not to think about you, LORD, or even mention your name. But **your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent.**

- **Your Passion** is often related to something **you have experienced yourself**

- Abuse
- Addiction
- Infertility
- Depression
- Illness
- Joblessness
- Lack of Faith

- **Your Passion** may be related to a **group of people who can't speak for themselves:**

- Young children
- The poor
- The imprisoned
- The disadvantaged
- Anyone denied justice
- To defend the defenseless

- **Your Passion** might be for a **purpose**:

- Starting a new Ecclesia
- Strengthening Families
- Promoting Bible Study
- Improving Marriages
- Mentoring Leaders
- Visiting the Sick
- Encouraging the Elderly

- **Your Passion** may be to **reach out to a group of people you feel close to**

- Businessmen
- Teenagers
- Young Mothers
- People on the “Outside”
- Certain Nationalities
- People with a certain hobby

- ***God gives us all different passions so that everything He wants done will get done***

- Speak openly and freely about your passions to others...

- Because God is speaking through you to bring them to His Gospel

4) Your **Life Message** Contains The **GOOD NEWS**

- The last, and most important facet of your **Life Message** is **God’s Message**

- The **Good News** of the **Gospel**

- 2nd Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)

19) For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. **This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.**

- *The **Good News** is that we have learned that*

- *We can **trust God’s grace** to save us through the **sacrifice of Jesus***
- *Our sins are **forgiven***
- *We are given a place in **God’s Kingdom***

- We are compelled, inspired and motivated to share this Good News with others...

- ***When we come to appreciate the value of it in our lives***

- Romans 1:17 (NLT)

17) This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. **This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.** As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

- Our Life Message has to include this amazing and wonderful message

- This hope is what carries us through the dark times

- The knowledge of the grace that we have been given motivates us to serve God

- The death of our Lord is what really motivates us to share God’s Word with others

- 2nd Corinthians 5:14 (NIV)

14) For **Christ’s love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

- ***To realize that God loved that person who works in the cubicle beside you SOOOO much that he allowed His only son to die so that that person might live...***

- That **HAS** to motivate you to reach beyond your comfort zone, and say something meaningful to the person beside you

- A parent will run into a burning building to save the life of their child

- Because their love for the child is so strong

- For you to be successful at reaching out to others, you have to ask God to fill your heart with love for the people around you

- God doesn’t want anyone to be lost

- God wants everyone to be saved

- As long as you know one person who hasn’t come to the Truth, you must keep praying for them, serving them in love, and sharing the Good News with them

- Sometimes you hear people complaining that we don’t have any good pamphlets to give to people

- God has prepared something **MUCH** better

- God has **YOU!**

- **God wants you to use YOUR LIFE MESSAGE to bring all nations to repentance**
- **God wants you to use YOUR LIFE MESSAGE to save your next door neighbor!**

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

God wants to say something to others through me.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- 1st Peter 3:15 (CEV)

15) *“Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.”*

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

Who does God want me to share my personal Life Message with?