

# 40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 5

## Seeing Life from God's View

### POINT TO PRAY ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*There is more to life than this life.*

*Duh! We know it academically, but have we absorbed it emotionally?*

### VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

*"And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever." – 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:17 NLT*

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*What is one thing that I am doing that is short-sighted and focuses solely on this life?*

*More importantly, what one thing should I start doing today?*

- **The way you see life shapes your life**
- A good way to get to know people is to ask them, *"How do you see life?"*
  - Some people see life as a circus, a minefield, a roller coaster, a puzzle, a journey, or 100's of other ways
  - People say things like, *"Life is a carousel. Sometimes your up. Sometimes your down. And sometimes you just go around and around."*
  - People say, *"Life is a game of cards, you have to play the hand you're dealt."*
- How you see life determines your expectations, your values, your relationships, your goals, and your priorities
- The way you look at your Life plays a big part in how you live it...
  - People who see Life as a Race... Value Speed
  - People who see Life as a Game... Value Winning

- People who see Life as a Party... Value Fun
- People who see Life as a Marathon... Value Endurance
- People who see Life as a Battle... Value Strength
- Assess how you are looking at Life
  - Don't look at life through the eyes of the World
- Romans 12:2 NLT
  - 2) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.
- When you get closer to God you start to see Life from God's Point of View
- The Bible defines 3 different ways that God sees Life...

### 1 - **Life** is a **Test**

- The words "Trials, Temptations, and Tests" appear over 200 times in the Bible
- God begins the entire Bible with Adam and Eve facing a Test
  - Even though Adam and Eve failed, God continues to give you many other examples of people who successfully faced their Tests:
 

Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Esther, Daniel... and Jesus!
- ***Your character is both revealed AND developed by Tests***
  - And you are CONSTANTLY being Tested by God
- He is testing your responses to people, problems, success, failure, conflict, peace, illness, health... Everything!
  - Even the small things... Like how you react to the weather, or traffic, or whether or not you are polite to strangers, or stop to pick up trash...
- God Tests your **Love** through **People**
- God Tests your **Hope** through **Possessions**
- God Tests your **Faith** through **Problems**

- God even tests you simply by drawing back so that you don't feel Him in your life

- ***He wants to see how you act when you don't feel Him close to you***

- Look at the example of Hezekiah in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 32:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 32:31 NIV

31) But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.

- When you realize that all of Life is a Test...

- ***You realize that nothing is insignificant in your life***

- The good news is that God wants you to pass the Test!
- He's not popping some quiz on you to try trip you up
- He never allows you to face a Test greater than you can handle

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13 MSG

13) No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

- God wants you to pass the Tests that you face in your life

- And every time you do, God records it for eternity

- James 1:12 NIV

12) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

## **2 - Life is a Trust**

- Everything you have... Your intelligence, your opportunities, your resources...

- Everything is a Gift from God **ENTRUSTED** to your care and management

- The concept of **Stewardship** begins in the very beginning of the Bible and continues through to the end

- Adam and Eve were entrusted with the responsibility to care for the creation

- Jesus continued the teachings of Stewardship, and spoke often of this responsibility towards God that you have
- The Parable of the Talents speaks loudest, because we should see it as a metaphor for what you have been entrusted with in your life
- We look forward to hearing what the good servant heard:
- Matthew 25:21 NIV
  - 21) “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
- A quick side note about Money...
  - Did you notice that Money falls into BOTH categories? A **Test** and a **Trust**?
- God uses Money to teach you to Trust Him...
  - It’s also one of the greatest Tests in your life
- God watches how you use your Money to help him determine whether or not He can give you something even more valuable:
- Luke 16:11 NIV
  - 11) So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

**POINT TO PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

*Life is both a Test and a Trust.*

**VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:**

*“Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won’t be faithful in large ones.” – Luke 16:10 NLT*

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:**

*What has happened to me recently that I now realize was a test from God? What can I learn from that experience that will help me See God’s tests sooner?*