

Intro: One of the best selling books in recent publishing history was written by Pastor Rick Warren:

Purpose Driven Life: Thesis of the entire book is that has put us here for a reason!

Contrast that w/ Charlie Brown: *"They say everyone is here to accomplish a certain number of things...at rate I'm going..."*
Tonight I want to talk with you about Purpose: Why are we here?

Background: This is the beginning of Jesus ministry: Goes to Him hometown, goes to synagogue, takes scroll to teach
And He opens it to a specific passage: "He found" Not random: Lit = *unrolled and kept unrolling until he located*
Here is what Jesus is doing:

~Announcing His public ministry: Gone around throughout Galilee, becoming famous
~Announcing His purpose: WHY am I here? WHAT am I going to do? WHO am I focused on?

As we read that I want to challenge you tonight...how would YOU answer those questions?

~Why are you here?
~What are you doing with your life?
~Who are you focused on?

That's why I referenced the PDL book: It's NOT about you!

Here is what I would submit to you tonight:

As a follower of Jesus...You are to be about the same kinds of things that He was! THAT Is what a disciple is!
Ch 4:14-30 Page 727
Lessons @ Purpose

1. Fulfilling Spiritual Purpose Requires Spiritual Power.

Vs 14, 18

Vs: 14 Jesus returned "In the power of the Spirit"

Power: Lit = *our word dynamite!* God, when He is at work, can be explosive, transformative and powerful

Vs:18 Anointed me to preach the Gospel...and other things!

This is the word that was used to describe an OT priest when he was set apart, purified and prepared

Anointed: Lit = *to pour out, to rub with oil, to cover with*

Applic: Here is what the bible tells us: Each and every follower of Jesus is called and empowered to serve Him

The things that Jesus did...are the things that WE are to do.

This calling and work is not delegated and isolated in the life of pastors/ministers...We are ALL set apart

Two Key Principles:

1. We are all "priests"

1Pe 2:9 *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."*

2. We all need His power!

Zech 4:6 *"This is the word of the Lord, Not by might, nor by power, but by MY spirit says the Lord"*

2. Five Purposes We Share With Jesus.

Vs 18-19

These are the things we should be about. Not saying we do ALL of them ALL the time

But I am saying that as a disciple of Jesus, as follower of Jesus, One who knows Him and calls Him Savior and Lord

These need to be incorporated into our life in a substantial and purposeful way!

-- To preach the gospel to the poor, i. e., to those who have no means to save themselves, and will appreciate it most, and become the richest in faith. (Compare Jas 2:5.)

It is the Core Gospel message:

All Sinners, Separated from God, God Reached out to us through Jesus, He lived and Died and Rose, We TRUST

"To the poor" To care about the people that no one else cares about: Always a hallmark of Jesus ministry

Reflects the heart of God for all people

Applic: *Do you know some people that are far from God...but want to be closer?*

-- The brokenhearted. The most distressed condition that man is heir to, which nothing can heal. But the assurance of attaining to a better state of existence.

This is the hope of relationship with God

That He can heal the place within that no one else can heal

Applic: *Do you know some people that are broken hearted?*

People that are so beaten up and broken down they almost are hopeless?

Those are the ones we are sent to!

-- Deliverance to the captives. The Gentiles seem to be meant here. They were always deprived of an approach to any ordained means of salvation before. People that seem to have no path to God, no understanding or insight to spiritual things
It could be physical distance and captivity
But...I don't think it is a stretch to say that God has called us to be those who reach out to others captive
Any kind of addiction, Any kind of Captivity,
Financial, Drug related, Some kind of Relational bondage
Applic: *We as the people of God, those who have found freedom in Him...need to offer that hope to others!*
Do you know some people in bondage?
Financial Peace being taught,
Counseling for marriages that are locked into destructive patterns!

-- Recovering of sight to the blind, i. e., spiritual sight to those who were spiritually blind.
Again, this could be both physical and Spiritual
Physically, this was fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus over and over
Blind saw Mt 20: What would you have me do for you?
Lame walked,
Sick healed from all kinds of illnesses, both spiritual and physical
Applic: *Just this Wed we met, prayed for someone with cancer, asking God to heal*
In the middle of that scary time, God was there...
That is a part of our purpose
No one walks alone

-- To set at liberty them that are bruised, or oppressed. Compare Isa 42:5-7.
Very similar to the Deliverance one above, but probably tends to lean more toward the emotional side
"To set at liberty them that are bruised. The word bruised, here, evidently has the same general signification as broken- hearted or the contrite. It means those who are pressed down by great calamity, or whose hearts are pressed or bruised by the consciousness of sin. To set them at liberty is the same as to free them from this pressure, or to give them consolation."
Applic: I'm confident you know some people in that place. So weighed down by life...they can hardly move forward
God calls us to come alongside, encourage, pray, help, heal, share His love and His grace

CONCL:

So, what is YOUR PURPOSE? And HOW can you fulfill it?

As I was writing this I was reminded of a piece I put together the day before...Mission Opportunities

These are ways you can live out what it means to be a follower of Jesus

Not the Only ways...Nor are they All you should do...

Most important thing is Pray: Say "God, Who In My Life Have You Sent Me To?"

But, in Addition, here are 6 opportunities

1. Cuba Container
2. Christmas Boxes
3. Trunk R Treat
4. Halloween Block Party
5. Winter Relief
6. Year End Giving