

## JESUS LIVED WITH PURPOSE

A. How would you describe a Christian to someone who had never seen one?

1. We might go to the virtues (2 Pet 1:5-7), or the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), or the beatitudes (Matt 5:1-12).
2. But however we chose to answer, it would be insufficient unless we actually showed that person what Jesus was like.
  - a. He washed the disciples' feet (John 13:15).
  - b. He emptied Himself of His right to be served (Phil 2:7).
  - c. He became a bond-servant (Phil 2:7).
  - d. He humbled Himself in obedience to God until the day of His death, and which resulted in His death (Phil 2:8).
  - e. He didn't sin against or deceive anyone (1 Pet 2:22)
  - f. He didn't abuse or insult anyone (1 Pet 2:23).

g. He gave His life to God, entrusting its outcome to Him (1 Pet 2:23).

h. And then He bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Pet 2:24).

i. Because of His wounded body, we were healed of an otherwise untreatable wounded soul (1 Pet 2:24)

3. But the question was, "What does a Christian look like"?

1 John 2:6, 3-5

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to **walk in the same manner as He walked**.

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we **keep His commandments**. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but **whoever keeps His word**, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

B. This year we want to grow in our ability to live in the same manner that Jesus lived.

1. Our claim to be Christians has to be proven by our conduct.

2. To be a Christian is not merely to be amazed by Jesus' power and love, or just to be thankful for what He has done for us.
3. To be a Christian is to value what is valuable to Christ; "to walk in the same manner as He walked".
4. This year and every year, we want **Christ in us** everywhere we go, because that's **the hope of glory** (Col 1:27-28)

C. But to do this, we have to know Jesus what Jesus was like.

1. **In His youth**, He was drawn to worship and Scripture knowledge and discussion.

Luke 2:46-49

46 Then, after three days **they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions**. 47 And **all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers**. 48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." 49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? **Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?**"

Luke 2:51-52

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **He continued in subjection to them**; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And **Jesus kept**

**increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

2. **At the end of His life**, Jesus was satisfied that He had done everything His Father asked Him to do.

John 17:4

**4 I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**

3. Jesus lived with purpose, but not just any old kind of purpose; He lived with the kind of purpose that we must live with if we want Him to live in us (Col 1:27).

D. You cannot overemphasize this matter of living with (divine) purpose.

1. In real life, most people don't fail for lack of talent, but for lack of purpose.

- a. They expend a massive amount of time, money and effort, but all in the wrong direction and for the wrong purpose

(Like racing from stop light to stop light with no destination in mind.)

(Like swinging a golf club for exercise and wondering what the golf ball is for.)

- b. Sometimes we get so busy with life that we overlook its purpose (Col 1:27-28).

[How did Jesus live with purpose? What was His purpose in life, this earthly life?]

I. Jesus' Purpose

A. To tell people about God and His Kingdom.

1. At the beginning He was wildly popular, because of His miracles and healing power.
2. And the people just wanted Him to stick around and be their permanent physician.

Luke 4:43

43 But He said to them, "***I must preach the kingdom of God*** to the other cities also, for ***I was sent for this purpose.***"

Mark 1:38

38 He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; ***for that is what I came for.***"

Mark 9:1 (Acts 2)

9 And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are ***some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.***"

John 3:3-5 (Mark 16:15-16)

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, ***unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.***" 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, ***unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.***

3. Making sick people well was a fine thing to do, but the results were only temporary.
4. The reason FOR His miracles was to create a receptive audience FOR His message,

...because His message wouldn't just make people better temporarily, it would save their souls eternally.

5. But practically speaking, how do we do this; how can we tell people about God and His Kingdom?
  - a. If Jesus talked about God & the Kingdom throughout His entire life, then we should be able to do that too.

b. But we have to look for avenues: a line of approach!

c. What avenues are available to us?

- This generation is using social media and personal blogs on the internet.
- Previous generations relied more on conversations with their neighbors; that's never outdated.
- But maybe you're having a difficult time finding any avenue to talk to someone about the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.
- If so, there is one avenue that will always be available for us to talk about the things that Jesus talked about, and that's the church.
- In teaching, in conversation, in cards to the sick, in visitation of the elderly, in letters to evangelists we can "spread our wings" and tell people things that they may already know, but telling them anyway. Talking about God and His plan of salvation.

[Would the people around you say that the purpose of your life is to talk about God and His truth?]

What was Jesus' purpose?]

B. To show people how to obey God.

1. In Hebrew 10, the writer summarized the purpose of Jesus' life on earth with a quote from Psalm 40, "I have come to do your will, O God" (Heb 10:7, cf. 4-10, Psalm 40:8).
2. Jesus didn't march to the beat of His own drum as some have accused Him.

John 6:38

38 For ***I have come down from heaven***, not ***to do*** My own will, but ***the will of Him who sent Me***.

a. How important was that purpose to Him?

John 4:34

34 Jesus said to them, "***My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me*** and to accomplish His work.

b. That's why Satan's temptations were ineffective (Matt 4:1-11).

- Jesus thought, "I'm hungry, but My Father doesn't want that rock to become bread."
- "I'll have a kingdom, but it won't be of this world."

- "I'm the Son of God, but I don't have to prove it to you, Satan."
- Jesus had nothing to prove to the Devil, EXCEPT that He wanted to do His Father's will.
- The only time Jesus had a falling out with His disciples was when their purpose differed from His Father's.
- And when it did, they were acting like Satan (Matt 16:21-23). What's that say about our purpose?

[Do you see yourself as God's servant, moving at His command, speaking with His approval?]

What was Jesus' purpose?]

- C. To warn people about the need to change (to repent, so as to please God).
  1. Whenever someone met Jesus they were never the same afterward.
  2. They were either better or worse, but they were never the same.
  3. Because Jesus came to change people; to teach them repentance toward God.

- 4. It was the first command out of His mouth.

Mark 1:15

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**"

Luke 5:31-32

31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. 32 **I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.**"

1 John 3:8

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

And where do those works take place? They take place in our hearts and in our lives before we have repented.

John 9:39

39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that **those who do NOT see may see** [that's the faith that leads to repentance] and that those who see may become blind."

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

- 5. Whenever there is true repentance there is abundant life in Christ, because we have accepted His purpose in our lives.

6. One of our functions in this world is to call people to repentance, *to come out of the world and its way of thinking and living and into Christ and His way of thinking and living.*
7. If we're not showing people how to change, to repent, then we're like that salt Jesus talked about that lost its flavor.

Matthew 5:13

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but ***if the salt has become tasteless***, how can it be made salty again? ***It is no longer good for anything***, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

[Do you see yourself as changed person, trying to get others to change?

Finally, what was Jesus' ultimate purpose?]

D. To seek out souls to save.

1. All of His teaching, and all of His showing people how to obey and how to repent were for this purpose.

Luke 19:10

10 For the Son of Man has come ***to seek and to save that which was lost.***"

2. He's the Shepherd that went searching for the lost one sheep (Matt 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7).
3. He's the Good Shepherd who "lays down His life for the Sheep" (John 10:11).

E. To accept the cost of saving souls.

1. He was willing to walk a rugged road (for 3 years) to make our forgiveness possible.
2. And one day He woke up knowing the day had come for Him to return to Jerusalem.

Mark 10:33-34 (8:31; 9:31)

33 saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be ***delivered*** to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will ***condemn*** Him to death and will ***hand Him over*** to the Gentiles. 34 They will ***mock*** Him and ***spit*** on Him, and ***scourge*** Him and ***kill*** Him, and ***three days later He will rise again.***"

3. In that great act, Jesus would not only save the souls of the those who lived before Him, and during His life, but He would save many souls who came after Him.

John 12:32

32 and I, ***if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.***"

Romans 5:19

19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so ***through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.***

4. What was it that drove Paul to work so hard to make Jesus' purpose his own?

1 Timothy 1:15

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that ***Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.***

- a. His love for people's souls is to be ours.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, ***so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*** 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

[Would the people who know us say, "He or she really love people's souls?"]

The purpose that Jesus lived with ought to be the great ambition of our lives.

That's a real challenge isn't? Because purpose is not something you do one time, or sometimes, it's something you do all the time.

So, how can we maintain this purpose all the time?]

## II. MAINTAINING JESUS' PURPOSE

### A. Start early in life (Luke 2:49).

1. Our children need to see our purpose.
2. The aged need to see His purpose in the younger, it will rekindle that purpose in them.
3. Time is running out (John 9:4).

### B. Be resolute throughout life (Luke 9:51).

1. Don't look back (Luke 9:57-62).

### C. Be prayerful when the work is hard (Luke 22:42; Jn 12:27-28).

### D. Rejoice in the certain outcome.

Romans 5:3-5 (James 1:2-4)

3 And not only this, but we also exult [glory, consider it an accomplishment] in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.