



ONE DAY YOUR LIFE WILL FLASH BEFORE YOU. MAKE SURE IT'S WORTH WATCHING

## ALIGNING MY PURSUITS WITH GOD'S PURPOSES (Week 1)

WELCOME: Each one shares with the group an item on their Bucket List.

WORSHIP: Opening Prayer—Praise God for the blessings and trials you received this week.

WORD:

### The Shortness of our Life on earth

Read Psalm 39:4-6.

- According to pastor, why is it important to ask God to remind us of the shortness of life?
- Read verse 6 again and answer this question: "What occupies most of my time?"
- We all have different pursuits and there's nothing fundamentally wrong with pursuing things we value. What are the top three most valuable pursuits in your life right now?
- Do you spend enough time on those top three as pursuits compared to the time you spend "heaping up wealth"?

All of our pursuits are meant to make us better individuals; all these are blessings from God that allow us to enjoy life! But we need to align these pursuits with God's purposes! Otherwise, the blessings that are meant for us to enjoy become burdens we need to endure.

Read John 14:6.

- Jesus is life. The amount of Jesus in your life will determine the amount of life in your years.
- Do you want more life in your years? Do you want your life to have greater impact?
- The best motivation in life: Live your life for the honor of your Savior and Lord, Jesus. Why is that the best motivation? Because Jesus is eternal—all others are passing—career, sports, properties, wealth, etc.—they're all temporary, Jesus is eternal.

### Aligning our Pursuits with God's Purposes

Read Philippians 1:20-30.

- When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church of Philippi, Paul was imprisoned in Rome. What was the reason for Paul's imprisonment?
- What was the creed that every citizen of the Roman Empire should declare? Why was it difficult for Paul to accept that creed?
- Despite the condition he was in, Paul teaches the church how to align their pursuits with God's purposes. He believed that every situation he finds himself in, is an opportunity to preach and teach about Christ. What can we learn from Paul about "seeing the brighter side of things" (verses 21-25 and 29)?

#### *How to align our pursuits with God's purposes.*

1. **Never be ashamed but continue to be bold** (v. 20). We are free to believe and follow Jesus! So let's use our freedom to be bold in sharing our faith with others. Don't be afraid or ashamed to share your faith or invite people to church. Fear and shame are two things Satan uses to paralyze us. Timidity does not come from the Spirit of God (2 Tim. 1:7) Always be bold, but exercise boldness with wisdom—when we have boldness but no wisdom we have the tendency to say the right things the wrong way.
2. **Honor Christ with your life** (v. 20). Again, this is our primary motivation in life! Choose to pursue things that honor God. If God is not honored in it, I won't do it. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

3. **Engage in things that bear more fruit for Christ** (v. 22). Choose to pursue things that will have greater impact and lead to more people for Jesus. Bring instead of invite; pray instead of argue; encourage instead of insult; worship instead of worry; praise instead of procrastinate.
4. **Help others grow and experience the joy of faith** (v. 25). We don't just surround our self with people who can help us discover who we can be in God; but we also NEED to come alongside others to help them discover who they can be in God! Community is key to growth! Community is key to reaching your potential. Always help others "grow and experience the joy of faith!"
5. **Pursue God's Mission Together** (v. 27). With one spirit, one purpose, we fight together for the Good News! That means, uniting ourselves under one purpose, together we advance the kingdom of God—bringing people to Jesus. When we align our pursuits with God's purpose, our ultimate desire is to make Jesus known.

Pastor proposed last Sunday that when we *align our pursuits with God's purpose* we begin to see our life and our pursuits differently:

*If you're an adult:*

- Wealth is no longer just to meet your needs, you use it to help expand the kingdom of God and to bless the world.
- The children you are raising are not just people you need to provide for; they become individuals God calls you to raise as disciples of Jesus (Read Psalm 127:4).
- The company you work for, the associations you're a part of, and the friends you hang out with are no longer just about the connections you maintain, they become people you want to reach for Jesus.

*If you're a teenager or a college student:*

- You begin to ask "Why am I a student at Holy Rosary?" "Why am I at the Comp?" "Why am I at Lakeland College?"
- When you align your pursuits with God's purposes, you realize that your role in your school is no longer just to learn, but to have significant spiritual impact on the people God surrounds you with.
- Your friends become people you need to reach for Jesus.

WORKS:

### **Pursuing our Goal Together!**

Let's talk about our church's goal: TO SEE 1000 STORIES OF LIFE-CHANGE BY 2019! If each attendee at Mosaic reaches 2 individuals in the next 12 month, we could surpass our goal! (If 300 reached 2 each in the next 12months, we will see 900 new disciples of Jesus by November 2017). Reaching 2 people each within the next 12 months will involve the following.

- Praying for them. Loving them. Bringing them to church (not just invite). Encouraging them to receive Jesus. Inspiring them to get baptized. Helping them grow in their faith together with you, and helping them become actively involved at Mosaic.

Why is our church so obsessed with numbers?

- Because numbers are not important! You are a number, you are important.
- *Every number has a name, every name has a story, every story matters to God.*
- Some people say, "GOALS will only make you bitter" but we say, "Goals will make you better!"
- We believe that there are so many broken people in this city who need to know Jesus and receive the grace and Spirit of God.

What exciting things do you anticipate as our church pursues this goal?

Will you make a commitment to reach 2 people in the next 12 months?

By faith, pray together that we may surpass the 1000 stories goal.

**As a closing activity, allow everyone who committed to reach two people in the next 12 months to seal their commitment by praying for these two individuals by name:**

*Lord, right now, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_. I strongly desire to reach them for you so that they will come to know you as their Lord and Savior, and become active part of Your Kingdom. Please empower me to bring them to you. Give me boldness and wisdom. I pray that Your Spirit will prepare their hearts for what You are about to do. I declare victory in Jesus' name.*