



STAND ALONE MESSAGE WHEN HE CALLS, IT'S ALWAYS A YES.

September 22, 2019

Pastor Keith Jenkins

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXTS:

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:3-6)

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:4-10)

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

SUMMARY

We were all created with a purpose. God knew every detail about us even before we were born. He has redeemed each and every one of us because of his great love for us. Despite all of this, sometimes it is hard for us to know what our purpose is. In this message, Pastor Keith shares several important pieces of discovering and living in our purpose.

We must remember that our lives are not our own. God has redeemed us, therefore our lives ultimately belong to him. We are to live submitted to him and his will. How can we discover his will and our purpose? We ask God to show us. When we experience God, He reveals himself to us and in the process gives us our purpose. Moses and Paul are great examples of this. This is an ongoing process in our lives, which we are called to submit to continually. While it may not always be clear to us in the moment, we can move forward when we are called, knowing that God is a good and loving God.

*"My life is now
Kingdom currency
to be spent as
the Lord sees fit."*

—Pastor Keith

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
2. When was the last time you felt "in the flow", like you were doing exactly what you were created to do?
3. Have you ever used something (a tool, gadget, etc) for something other than what it was originally intended for? How did that go?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)?
What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you learn about your own identity in 1 Peter 1:18-19?
What does this passage tell you about your value and the purpose of your life?
2. In Exodus 3:4-10, Moses encounters God and God reveals himself to Moses.
How would you describe Moses' encounter with God? What does God reveal about himself to Moses? How does this impact Moses' calling?
3. In Acts 9:3-6, Paul has his own encounter with God. How does Paul encounter God?
What does God reveal about himself? What purpose does God give to Paul's life?
4. Read Jeremiah 1:4-5. What does this passage tell us about God's purpose for Jeremiah?
What does it tell you about God's purpose for each and every one of us?
5. Read Ephesians 2:10. What does this passage tell us about God's purpose for us?
How is this message similar or different from the other passages used this week?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How does knowing that we are redeemed by God impact how we view our lives?
Who should be the ultimate authority in our lives? How have you seen people do this?
2. How do people experience God today? How does God reveal himself and his purpose to people?
3. How have you seen people discover God's purpose for them? What circumstances, people, experiences, etc. have you seen or heard of God using?
4. Can you think of an example (either someone you know or know of) of someone who you can look and their life and see how God perfectly created them to do the work that they are doing?
5. What does it look like in our world to "submit to the process"?
How can we submit our lives to God in big and small ways?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What would (or what does) it look like for God to be the ultimate authority in your life?
How does/should knowing that God has redeemed you affect your day to day living?
2. How have you experienced God in your own life? What does experiencing God look like for you? (Just a note, we all experience God in slightly different ways; there is no one right way to experience God) What has God been revealing to you about himself?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

3. What do you think God's purpose for your life is? What do you think he had in mind as he was creating you?
4. Just because you have an aptitude at something (you're good at it), doesn't mean that's God's sole purpose for your life. What do you have an aptitude in that you think might not be God's ultimate calling? What do you not have an aptitude in that you think God might call you into? (Remember, God calls us to things that we must have his help in order to accomplish)
5. What is available to you right now that you think God might be calling you to do?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If you don't know or are unclear on what God's purpose for you is, ask him!
How can your group pray for you as you seek to understand God's purpose for you?
2. What would it look like for you to "submit to the process" in your own life right now?
What small step of submission can you take this week?
3. What is an opportunity available to you right now (either big or small) that you can take to fulfill or explore God's purpose for you?

NOTE: On the following page (for most weeks) you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio

