

Week 9: Day 25-28

Week 10: Day 29-31

Week 11: Day 32-35

Week 12: Day 36-40

Introduction

I. The Purpose Driven Life

a. This Teaching

1. Based on a bestselling book written by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.
2. The book is written as a 40 day series of daily devotionals.
3. The number 40 was selected because of its biblical significance
 - i. Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
 - ii. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai and 40 years in the desert.
 - iii. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
 - iv. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
 - v. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
 - vi. The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
 - vii. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
 - viii. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

b. The Goals for this teaching

1. Promote personal devotion and understanding of our individual purposes for life.
2. Strengthen the desire of individuals to serve the fellowship of believers through each partner discovering his/her divine calling.
3. Create opportunities for small group leaders to share this information in a small group setting with their un-churched friends and family.

II. Made for a Mission (Day 36)

a. Introduction

1. You were made for a mission.
2. God wants you to have both a ministry and in the Body of Christ and a mission in the world.
3. Once we are his, God uses us to reach others.

b. The Importance of Your Mission

1. Your mission is a continuation of Jesus' mission on earth.
 - i. The great commission given by Christ in Matthew 28:17-20
 - ii. Jesus calls us not only to come to him, but to go for him.
2. Your mission is a wonderful privilege
 - i. Working with God and representing him.
 - ii. We have the blessed opportunity to partner with God in the building of his kingdom.
3. Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing you can do for them.
 - i. One problem long-term Christians have is that they forget how hopeless it felt to be without Christ.
4. Your mission has eternal significance
 - i. Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God.
 - ii. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." [John 9:4]
5. Your mission gives your life meaning
 - i. Start looking around at your personal mission field and pray, "God, who have you put in my life for me to tell about Jesus?"
6. God's timetable for history's conclusion is connected to the completion of our commission
 - i. Jesus vindicated the truth that we are not supposed to spend needless time trying to know the exact time of his return.
 - ii. We are compelled to spend our energy on sharing the gospel.
 - iii. Examine Acts 1:1-10 closely.

c. What Costs to Fulfill your Mission

1. To fulfill your mission will require that you abandon your agenda and accept God's agenda for your life.

2. This is the essence of sacrifice because it requires more than just our time, talent, treasure, body, etc. This sacrifice requires our wills being lost in Christ's will for our lives.

- d. One more for Jesus
1. "Save one more for Jesus!"

III. Sharing Your Life Message (Day 37)

a. Introduction

1. When you became a believer, you also became God's messenger.
2. John vindicates this thought, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."
3. Your life message's four parts
 - i. Your testimony: the story of how you began a relationship with Jesus.
 - ii. Your life lessons: the most important lessons God has taught you.
 - iii. Your godly passions: the issues God shaped you to care about most.
 - iv. The Good News: the message of salvation.

b. Your Life Message includes your testimony

1. Actually, your personal testimony is more effective than a sermon, because unbelievers see pastors as professional salesmen, but see you as a "satisfied customer," so they give you more credibility.
2. Personal stories are also easier to relate to than principles, and people love to hear them.
3. The best way to "be ready" when someone asks why they should accept Christ is to write out your testimony and then memorize the main points.
 - i. What my life was like before I met Jesus
 - ii. How I realized I needed Jesus
 - iii. How I committed my life to Jesus
 - iv. The difference Jesus has made in my life

c. Your Life Message includes your life lessons

1. These are lessons and insights you have learned about God, relationships, problems, temptations, and other aspects of life.
2. Just as you learn from other's mistakes and experiences, those with whom you interact can learn from yours.
3. "As an earring of Gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear."
4. Write down the major life lessons you have learned so you can share them with others
 - i. What has God taught me from failure?

- ii. What has God taught me from a lack of money?
 - iii. What has God taught me from pain or sorrow or depression?
 - iv. What has God taught me through waiting?
 - v. What has God taught me through illness?
 - vi. What has God taught me from disappointment?
 - vii. What have I learned from my family, my church, my relationships, my small group, and my critics?
- d. Your Life Message includes sharing your godly passions
- i. God is passionate.
 - ii. As you grow closer to him, he will give you a passion for something he cares about deeply so you can be a spokesman for him in the world.
 - iii. God uses passionate people to further his kingdom.
- e. Your Life Message includes the Good News
- 1. Most important, you must learn to love lost people the way God does.
 - 2. What are you willing to do so that people you know will go to heaven?
 - 3. Is anyone going to be in heaven because of you? Will anyone in heaven be able to say to you, "I want to thank you. I'm here because you cared enough to share the Good News with me"?

IV. Becoming a World-Class Christian (Day 38)

- a. Introduction
- 1. The great Commission is your commission. We are all responsible for sharing God's message.
 - 2. Worldly Christians want to use God for their purposes instead of being used for his purposes.
 - 3. World-class Christians know they were saved to serve and made for a mission.

"Worldly Christians look to God primarily for personal fulfillment. They are saved, but self-centered. They love to attend concerts and enrichment seminars, but you would never find them at a missions conference because they aren't interested. Their prayers focus on their own needs, blessings, and happiness. It's a "me-first" faith: How can God make my life more comfortable? They want to use God for their purposes instead of being used for his purposes."

- 4. Their joy, confidence, and enthusiasm are contagious because they know they are making a difference.
- 5. The opportunities for normal, everyday Christians to become involved in short-term international missions are now literally limitless.
- 6. To be a world-class Christian you must make some mental shifts.

b. How to Think Like a World-Class Christian**1. Shift from self-centered thinking to other-centered thinking.**

- i.** Begin asking the Holy Spirit to help you to think of the spiritual need of unbelievers whenever you talk to them.
- ii.** Your goal is to figure out where others are in their spiritual journey and then do whatever will bring them a step closer to knowing Christ.

2. Shift from local thinking to global thinking

- i.** God is a global God.
- ii.** Get a globe or map and pray for nations by name.
 - a.** Pray for opportunities to witness, courage to speak up, for those who will believe, for rapid spread of the message and for more workers.
- iii.** Read and watch the news with “Great Commission eyes”.
- iv.** Go on a short-term mission project to another country.
- v.** Acts 1:8 Commission: “You shall be my witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
 - a.** Every Christian is called to be on a mission to all four groups in some way.

3. Shift from “here and now” thinking to eternal thinking.

- i.** What he (Christ) meant was that you should use the money God gives you to bring people to Christ.

4. Shift from thinking of excuses to thinking of creative ways to fulfill your commission

- i.** Many use excuses to hinder their missionary work. Some excuses are:
 - a.** “I only speak English” – This is actually an advantage in many countries where millions of people want to learn English and are eager to practice.
 - b.** “I don’t have anything to offer” – Yes, you do. Every ability and experience in your shape can be used somewhere.
 - c.** “I’m too old (or too young)” – Most mission agencies have age-appropriate short term projects.
- ii.** The truth is God wants his whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world.
- iii.** There are more than 6 billion people on earth, and Jesus wants all his lost children found.

V. Balancing Your Life (Day 39)**a. Introduction****1. God's five purposes for your life:**

- i.** Love God with all your heart : You were planned for God's pleasure, so your spurose is to love God through worship.
- ii.** Love your neighbor as yourself: You were shaped for serving, so your purpose is to show love for others through ministry.
- iii.** Go and make disciples: You were made for a mission, so your purpose is to share God's message through evangelism.
- iv.** Baptize them into...: You were formed for God's family, so your purpose is to identify with his church through fellowship.
- v.** Teach them to do all things: You were created to become like Christ, so your purpose to grow to maturity through discipleship.

2. A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will make you a great Christian**b. Habits to Develop****1. Talk it through with a spiritual partner or small group.**

- i.** Our minds are sharpened and our convictions are deepened through conversation.

2. Give yourself a regular spiritual check-up

- i.** Check the five vital signs of worship, fellowship, growth in character, ministry, and mission.

3. Write down your progress in a journal.**4. Pass on what you know to others.****VI. Living with Purpose (Day 40)****a. Introduction****1. Most people struggle with three basic issues in life**

- i.** Identity – “Who am I?”
- ii.** Importance – “Do I matter?”
- iii.** Impact – “What is my place in life?”

b. Life Purpose Statement

- 1.** It's a statement what summarizes God's purposes for your life.
- 2.** It's a statement that points the direction of your life.
- 3.** It's a statement that defines “success” for you.
- 4.** It's a statement that clarifies your roles.
- 5.** It's a statement that expresses your shape.

c. Five Greatest Questions

1. What will be the center of my life? – *worship: What or whom are you going to build your life around?*
 - i. Worry is the warning light that God has been shoved to the sideline.
2. What will be the character of my life? – *discipleship: “What kind of person will you be?”*
 - i. Make a list of the character qualities you want to work on and develop in your life.
3. What will be the contribution of my life? – *service: What will be your ministry in the Body of Christ?*
4. What will be the communication of my life? - *missions: It should include your commitment to share your testimony and the Good news with others*
5. What will be the community of my life? - - *fellowship: How will you demonstrate your commitment to other believers and connection to the family of God?*