

Week 1: Introduction, Day 1-3

Week 2: Day 4-7

Week 3: Day 8-10

Week 4: Day 11-13

Introduction

I. The Purpose Driven Life

a. This Teaching

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

b. The Goals for this teaching

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

II. Made to Last Forever

a. Proof of Eternity

i. Ecclesiastes 3:11 –

- a) He hath made every thing beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. (KJV)
- b) He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (NASB)

- ii. I John 2:17 - **2:17** - The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (NASB)
- ii. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- iii. Our bodies are temporary dwelling places; consequently Paul told the Corinthians that when this tent is taken down we will receive another building from God. (2 Corinthians 5:1)

b. Priorities of Eternity

- i. A view of eternity changes our perspective about life.
- ii. “Every act of our lives strikes some chord that will vibrate in eternity.

c. Place of Eternity

- i. Christ declared he would prepare a place for us in eternity. (John 14)
- ii. God has a purpose for our lives and it doesn’t end here.

III. Seeing Life from God’s View

a. Life on earth is a test

- i. “What is your view of life?” – We should have biblical metaphors of life.
- ii. God continually tests people’s faith, character, obedience, love, integrity, and loyalty.
 1. Abraham was tested in offering Isaac.
 2. Jacob tested in working for Rachel.
 3. Job tested in faithfulness and character after losing everything.
- iii. God uses tests to develop us and make us stronger.
- iv. God even tests us by seemingly drawing back from us to where we don’t feel the same closeness as in other times.
 1. Ex. Psalm 28: “Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.”)

2. Paul endured a thorn in the flesh and asked God for help three times. On the third request God responded “ My grace is sufficient for thee. For my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

- b. Life on earth is a trust
 - i. We are trusted with the gifts that God gives us.
 - ii. The parable of the Master, servants and the talents. (Matthew 25:14-29)

IV. Life Is a Temporary Assignment

- a. Scripture References
 - i. LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. (Psalm 39:4, KJV)
 - ii. I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. (Psalm 119:19, NAS)
- b. Two important truths to remember
 - i. Compared to eternity, life is extremely brief.
 - ii. Earth is only a temporary residence.
 1. Moses requested that God teach us to number our days. (Psalm 90:12)
- c. The temporary nature of our life is illustrated in terms including: alien, pilgrim, foreigner, stranger, visitor, and traveler.
- d. We are simply ambassadors sent here to carry out an assignment.

V. The story of the old faithful missionary

“Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction, and events without reason. Without a purpose, life is trivial, petty, and pointless.”