

You Can

Part 5: You Can Purposefully Invest

Luke 10:30-37

WE:

You're smart. I want to point out what you KNOW...

A lot of what we do with our time, ability, and money is purposeless.

We keep doing the same things over and over without even thinking why we are doing it (no purpose)...

Pause Candy Crush, top scrolling through insta-face-tok, for a second and think about it...

Wear ourselves out (using most of our time and abilities) to make other people money.

And a lot of the money we keep for ourselves, we spend on things we want right then to keep up the lifestyle we want (or the appearance of it), and to distract us until it's time to go back and work for more money. To buy stuff we don't really need in the first place.

You're already pushing back aren't you...

- "You don't know me"
- I don't waste my time and money... I work hard to support my family
- I barely make ends meet/I'm so busy... I wish I had money and time to waste... in fact that's my main problem.

I know, honestly I'm saying the same things... but... If you're watching/listening to this...

98% chance you live in USA [Pic of my passport?]- Which means you most likely have more than you need... I'll show you...

You are watching/listening this either on smartphone/smart tv/computer. (most likely w/ a screen that is bigger than you actually need) [I pull out my laptop and phone]

Chance you're listening in a house [Pic of my house] or car that is more expensive and nicer than it "needs" to be

Might be sipping a drink [I pull out a starbucks cup] that is way more expensive than it needs to be

Or maybe eating food you didn't make for a price way higher than if you did... [Put away MOD pizza box]

You get the point

We spend most of our time, ability, and money on ourselves

Are there people in our society and world that what I'm saying doesn't apply to? That can barely afford the essentials of food, shelter, clothing?

Absolutely. Are you one of them... probably not.

See... Most of us buy things we don't really need and then worry that we don't have enough... to pay the bills for things we bought that we couldn't afford.

Most of us stare at some kind of screen for more time a day than we care to admit and then worry we don't have enough time for what matters.

We try to find our meaning in what we do to make money, how much we make, what we can buy, what title we have, or when we'll get to retire and wonder why life seems purposeless...

Now... Maybe you grew up wanting to make a difference, have a larger purpose in life... but at some point gave up and settled for getting by...

Or maybe were never told you could live for more... never told there was an option other than the "American dream" of job, money, marriage, kids, house, stuff.

Doing this series to either to remind you or tell you for the first time... YOU CAN. You can have a life of purpose.

Jesus didn't come to tell us what we can't do... He came to show us who we can be and to make us into who we were always meant to be. That includes what we do with what we have.

Our life isn't meant to be spent on ourselves but to be purposely invested for others.

Not JF- You're safe. Don't have to do anything I'm going to talk about. But if you're tired of the same routine and having the same results... want to show you what you are invited to...

GOD: Luke. Historian. Records one of most important/famous conversations in history of world...

Paraphrase conversation. "What does God really want from us?" His way of asking, "What is the meaning of life?"

Greatest commandment... Love Lord your God with all your heart, mind, strength, soul."

Matthew/Mark Jesus says, "2nd is like it" (equally important/ can't do the first if don't do the other)

Love your neighbor as yourself.

The purpose of life is to love God by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

"Yeah but who is my neighbor?" "Yeah but what does love really look like?"

Grasp the importance of this... Jesus (we believe God in a bod) was asked to fully explain THE main thing he wants us to do... THE explanation of the meaning of life...

Love God/Love Others- Typical explanation: Go to church, sing the songs, give some of your money and you're good to go pursue the American dream... Oh and be nice and smile at people in the grocery store.

But Jesus doesn't give the guy a bare minimum list... he gives him an example to emulate...

V. 30

Jericho Road 17 mi. (Picture and Map)

V. 31

A priest! This man is saved!

Nope. "Loved God" professionally! Had the job and title... but not the heart.

V. 32

Temple assistant- Levite... family line chosen to serve in the temple. Man saved?

Nope... Born to "love God" had the "right" lineage and culture and training... but not the heart.

Maybe these guys send up some thoughts, prayers, positive vibes... feel bad for the man... but "he probably got what he deserved and..." excuses.

Audience... "No surprise. Those guys suck. Part of the religious establishment. They treat us the same way..."

Now they are probably expecting Jesus to stick it to the religious elite and have a simple Jewish man come by and take care of his brother Jew... to go with the anti-religious establishment feel of Jesus' teachings...

But if they had taken the time to read the title of the story they'd know what happens next...

V. 33-37

Not what audience expected... A lot of focus put on the fact that he is a Samaritan...

Hated each other... racial/historical enemies. Shocking that the hero... the one who truly lived out God's purpose was a hated Samaritan.

Important but there's more here than just that.

Think about it... This is God's example of what it means to love him... by loving others.

Jesus doesn't describe the Samaritan's religious discipline, how often he prayed, what verses he had painted on his walls at home, what synagogue he belonged to, how he knew just who to include and who to exclude, how he voted, what he ate or drank...

Jesus describes the Samaritans ACTIONS when faced with the need of someone else.

His chose to purposely invest his time, ability, and money for the good of someone he didn't know, a cultural enemy even.

Love is purposely choosing to use what we have and what we are for the good of others.

What did he do? Why did Jesus use this story as THE example of purposely investing our lives?

Chose to Look- Saw the man's need. Had his eyes open. Wasn't so busy/preoccupied/stressed/in his own world that he missed the need.

Chose Sympathy/Empathy- Saw the man for who he really was. Not hated enemy/sinner getting what deserves. Image bearer of God. Worthy of his attention and love.

Didn't say, "Well, I can't just stop and help everyone who gets beaten up."

Thought: "This could be me/my kid. How would I want to be treated here?"

He did for one what he wished he could do for everyone.

Invested his time- Stopped. Saw this man's needs as more important than his schedule, what he wanted to use his time for.

Invested his abilities- Soothed wounds. Might not have been a surgeon, but did what he could with what he knew. He used his ability to help the man.

Invested his resources- Put on own donkey/Paid innkeeper

Recruited others to join- Innkeeper: Now you do it

Jesus ends with... "which one loved his neighbor? Go and do the same."

Remember Not-JF: Safe. Don't have to do any of this.. BUT...

My question... which of the three had a life of purpose? Which one could look back and be proud of the path they chose? Which one is living out the life we all truly want to experience?

It's a life you are invited to experience too.

JF- You're not so safe.

This story isn't an impossible ideal we should nod and agree with, but know it's still out of reach. Not something we try to do every once in a while when our church organizes a service project...

This is an example of what Jesus expects a typical/common/normal JF to **live** like everyday.

This is who YOU CAN be through Jesus.

Following Jesus requires purposely investing for the good of others.

JF or NOT- Want to experience true life/purpose?

Instead of spending your time, abilities, and money on yourself... Spend yourself for the good of others.

Purposely invest what you have/who you are into the Kingdom of God

If you're ready to be who you can be... If you're ready to rise above the normal / typical / empty / purposelessness...

YOU:

Evaluate: Do I regularly use who I am and what I have for the benefit of others?

- How know? Look at calendar and bank statement.

Adjust: Create margin

If caught yourself saying: I'm too busy. I don't have anything to give... to live the life you were created for, you might have to make some major changes in priorities.

Might not be major- might need to start with minor adjustments...

The life we truly want to live doesn't happen by accident.

Invest: Resources: alliance page

ASK- What do you want me to do with what you have given me? Who I am?

Money?

- Places to invest in show notes and on website.
- Crosscreek.

Time/Abilities?

- Volunteer opportunities
- Friend- who knows cars... fixed car for single mom who got rear-ended, fixed a flat for me.
- Wouldn't have house we live in without friend investing time, ability, money, resources

Trust: Nothing exercises trust better than being generous with time, ability, money.

If I give up my time to help someone else... do I trust God will give me the ability to get done what I need to get done?

AND Forces you to rely on something other than your own money and stuff.

What you rely on is what you worship. [Talk more about this in a future series]

So do you want to trust what you have or Jesus?

"God, you said you'd take care of me. And you want me to be generous... here we go... please show up."

And then he does. And then you do it again. And he does. And pretty soon you realize he was telling the truth. He will take care of you. Check out Matt. 7. True life of Freedom!

Purposely investing our life frees us from worrying about our life.

WE:

Listen: We weren't born to just get as much stuff as we can for ourselves only to watch it fall apart, fall out of style, fall into neglect, or fall through our fingers when we die.

God himself died to show us that our lives have purpose...

You can have a life of meaning. You can make a difference. You can change one life at a time... even yours.

It's a choice. Will you waste who you are and what you have on yourself or will you use it to love others and trust that b/c God loves you and will take care of your needs?

You have a choice... we all do...

You can invest your life on purpose for the greatest purpose.

Questions

1. How have you seen God working in your life and world this week?
2. What thoughts/feelings come up for you when you hear, "Our life isn't meant to be spent on ourselves but to be purposely invested for others"?
3. Read Mathew 6:19-21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Why do you think generosity is such an important aspect of following Jesus?
4. Jon encouraged us to evaluate our resources and advised us to "adjust, invest, and trust" this week. What is something you want to do in response to this and how can your group pray for you in that response?

What if life is meant for more than working for more money in order to accumulate more stuff? Maybe life becomes more when we give more of it away.

Episode Breakdown:

00:56 On behalf of...

02:03 You are smart

05:25 Is the American Dream our only option?

07:40 The real meaning of life...


13:40 What real love looks like


16:52 Which life do you pick?

18:42 If you're ready, a challenge

24:12 What's next for you, for us

29:02 Qs and Cutz

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▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon On-Site Gatherings

October 24th, 4:30pm at our new location! <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/gathering/> for more info.

▶ #forSalem October Opportunity: BOO YOUR NEIGHBOR

1. Buy or make treats for a neighbor.
2. Secretly leave the treats & the "We've Been Boo'd!" sign on their doorstep.

Download the PDF: <https://yourcrosscreek.com/boo>

We will have BOO Oreos for you to give to your neighbors at our October 24th gathering!

▶ Suggested Bible Readings:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Ephesians 2:1-10

James 2:14-26

Matt 6:19-34

▶ Music we listened to making this episode:

Stone temple Pilots- Vasoline: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht672-wYelc>

Bruno Mars- Money Make Her Smile: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_czUZiTbwy0

Jon Foreman- Your Love if Strong: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCDO_FcF5JA

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