

PREPARED FOR A PURPOSE, MARK 3:13-19



PURPOSE

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- **Exodus 1:6-8 NIV**, “6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, 7 but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.”
 - “8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.”

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- **Exodus 19:4-6 NIV**, “4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”
 - So, what is the next question?
 - What does this mean? How?

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- **1st Peter 2:9 NIV**, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
 - So, what should be our next question?
 - What does this mean? How?

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- **Matthew 3:5-6 NIV**, 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
 - **Matthew 3:11 NIV**, 11 “I baptize you with water for (*demonstrating*) repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

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- What was John the Baptist's purpose in life, what was his role in the Kingdom of God?
 - To prepare the Nation of Israel for the Messiah
 - To announce the coming of the Messiah
 - To identify the Messiah through baptism
 - John the Baptist has the answer for us

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- **John 3:30 NIV**, “He must become greater; I must become less.”
 - **MSG**, “This is the assigned moment for him to move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines.”
- Becoming born again is just the beginning of our great journey with Jesus
 - We get to discover who Jesus really is
 - But we also get to discover who we now are in Christ Jesus
 - And we will find He has a plan and purpose for our lives
 - How Randy?
 - Jesus must become greater in our lives which He can do only when we become less and this happens through the process called, Discipleship

Scripture

- **Mark 3:13-19 NIV**, 13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), 17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

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- Someone once said, “Our problem with following Jesus is we are trying to be a better version of us rather than a more accurate reflection of Him.”
 - Following Jesus is not about being a better you
 - Scripture calls us to die to self, our old nature which is hostile to Jesus
 - **Galatians 5:24 NIV**, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

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- When Jesus calls you
 - He is calling you to leave your Egypt behind and to embrace your new Promised Land
 - He is calling you into a life of transformation that begins to chisel the hard, selfish, prideful, lazy, and greedy you off you to reveal His Spirit in you, what He sees in you
 - So, you can be a “more accurate reflection of Him.”
 - “He must increase, and I must decrease”

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- Think of a marble sculpture



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- You begin your journey in the Kingdom of God like that marble block with the Master:
 - God knows who you really are
 - He knows what He desires to create in you for His Kingdom
 - He has already identified what of you will be chipped off, ground off, polished bright
 - He already knows what tool He will use on your life
 - All the while seeing your finished image in His mind
 - **Ephesians 2:10 NIV**, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Number one, Jesus calls you

- **Vs. 13**, “Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted”
- Three calls upon a person’s life
 - There is the call to salvation
 - **John 6:44 NIV**, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws (*calls*) them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Number one, Jesus calls you

- There is the call to discipleship
 - **Matthew 11:28-30 NIV**, 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from (of) me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
 - **MSG, 28-30** “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Number one, Jesus calls you

- These is a call to purpose for your life
 - Understanding your place in the Kingdom of God – your divine purpose
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:20 NIV**, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”
 - So, you are on assignment by the King of kings to represent the Kingdom of God here in this foreign land called earth

Number one, Jesus calls you

- These twelve men were normal, average, and nothing special when it came to their resume
 - These men were all different: different personalities, different backgrounds, different religious upbringing, different skills, different strengths, and weaknesses
 - Yet they were all chosen to serve Jesus in a unique and special way
 - You don't need to be a Bible scholar, you don't need to have all the answers, you don't need to be a super Christian for Jesus to use you in mighty ways
 - He just needs you to be open and teachable

Number one, Jesus calls you

- When Jesus called these twelve men “*they came to him*” in obedience
 - They responded with submission
 - That is not to say they understood the enormity of it all, but they submitted to His call
 - They were not spiritually mature at this moment, or ready to lead multitudes, but they agreed to follow the Lord and submit to His will for their lives
 - They all became what Jesus saw in them, except Judas as he refused to submit his will to Jesus

Number two, Jesus appoints you

- Vs. 14, “He appointed twelve”
- You are not going to be appointed (*called*) to be an apostle, but you are called to something in God’s Kingdom
 - You may be called to be a pastor, missionary, some other full-time ministry
 - How about a godly dad, godly mom, godly single person, a representative of Jesus at school, a good witness at work
 - You have been appointed by God to be an ambassador where you live and with whom you live

- **Number two, Jesus appoints you**
- You have an assignment to become whatever God leads you to
- Jesus was starting something new and very different with these twelve
 - The old wineskins were out, and the new wineskins were in
 - Jesus was going to start a new nation, a spiritual nation
- Peter referred to this later when he wrote in **1st Peter 2:9 NIV**, “9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
 - Folks this is you and this is me
- We understand being called, maybe appointed, but that still does not answer the question of “How?”

Number three, Jesus trains you

- **Vs. 14a**, “He appointed twelve that they might be with him”
 - Mark tells us that after Jesus called them, they were to accompany him everywhere Jesus went – Why?
 - To learn how to live in His new Kingdom
 - This is significant, by constantly spending time with Jesus, the Twelve would be personally mentored and trained by Jesus Himself
 - They would be trained as His apprentices
 - Apprentice - a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer

Number three, Jesus trains you

- **Vs. 14a**, “He appointed twelve that they might be with him”
 - For the remainder of His earthly ministry, Jesus intensely invested Himself in preparing them
 - It is imperative that we today be with the Lord, in close fellowship with Him, to receive His wisdom and instruction we need to be effective in the work He has given us

Number three, Jesus trains you

- How does Jesus equip and train you for your life purpose?
 - Primarily through His Word
 - **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 NIV**, “16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
 - If you are not in God’s Word, you are not being equipped for your purpose and when the time comes you will not know what to do

Number three, Jesus trains you

- How does Jesus equip and train you for your life purpose?
 - He also trains through the events and experiences He allows in our lives
 - For Simon to become Peter he had to walk through his denial knowing Jesus
 - Spiritual Mentors are important
 - **1st Corinthians 11:1 NIV**, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
- This is how Jesus prepares us so when the battle begins you will be able to stand firm

Number four, Jesus sends you

- **Vs. 14**, “he might send them out to preach”
 - They were sent out to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God as disciples of Jesus
 - These twelve men were entrusted with the essential responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others
 - They were sent out to practice the anointing, skills, authority given them by Jesus

Number four, Jesus sends you

- Vs. 14, “he might send them out to preach”
 - The task given them was far beyond their abilities
 - **Matthew 28:18-20 NIV**, 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Number four, Jesus sends you

- These twelve men did not start out as Apostles
 - Some of them were fishermen, one was a tax collector, another a freedom fighter
 - None of them had received a formal theological education
 - We know little about most of them
 - Yet with being with Jesus for 3 ½ years, those who started out as learners, or disciples, became sent one, or Apostles

Number four, Jesus sends you

- **1st Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV**, “4 There are different kinds of (*spiritual*) gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Number four, Jesus sends you

- **1st Corinthians 12:7-11 NIV**, “7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”
- Once again, this all sounds scary and the question of how has not been answered

Number five, Jesus empowers you

- **Vs. 15**, “and to have authority to drive out demons.”
 - **Matthew 10:1 NIV**, adds that they were also given power “to heal every kind of disease and illness”
 - Jesus gave these disciples a portion of His authority and power
 - So, their ministry at that time resembled their Master’s
 - People would see these miracle and quickly identify them as being with Jesus
 - **Acts 4:13 NIV**, “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Number five, Jesus empowers you

- Jesus gave these disciples a portion of His authority and power
 - In referring to the apostles, **Hebrews 2:4 NLT** says, “God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose”
 - **ESV**, “God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Number five, Jesus empowers you

- Whatever God wants you to do, He is going to empower you to do it
 - He is going to equip you to minister to the people in your life
 - Don't become obsessed with casting out demons and healing diseases and illnesses, this is not the primary goal of your ministry
 - Your primary goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and let God bring about a transformation into their hearts and lives that will last for eternity

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- Did you notice the sovereignty in all of this
 - Jesus did the calling, appointing, training, sending, empowering
 - We, like John the Baptist, do the yielding, accepting, submitting
- Someone once said, “Our problem with following Jesus is we are trying to be a better version of us rather than a more accurate reflection of Him.”
 - Following Jesus is not about being a better you
 - You must die to yourself so you can become more like Him
- To accurately reflect the image of Jesus in us, He must increase, and we must decrease

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