

What on earth am I here for? – Worship Week 2 of 40 Days of Purpose

Message for Sunday, October 20, 2013
based on a message by Rick Warren

Scripture: Matthew 22:37-38, Romans 12:1

Children's Message: from Matthew 22:37-38.
How do you love God? *Discuss ideas.* Compare with how you love a friend: for your friend's birthday gift, do you find some piece of junk nobody wants? What if you took your favourite toy/game and gave it to your friend? Love is putting the other person first. Loving God is putting God first. Such as... doing something for God instead of watching a TV show or playing a video game. "Something for God" could be helping someone with homework, for Jesus said whatever you do for others, you do for him.

Sing "Love the Lord your God."

Message: "What on earth am I here for? – Worship"
Week 2 of 40 Days of Purpose

1) What is the most important thing in life?

One day Jesus was talking with the crowds of people in Jerusalem, and someone popped him this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" This is how Jesus replied:

Matthew 22:37-38, Today's English Version:

" 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment."

We're going through "40 Days of Purpose" to discover what our purpose in life is, and here is the first one. This is the first of the purposes for our lives: to love God. The Bible uses another word to describe what "love God" means; that word is "worship." Here's an example of how the two words are used as synonyms:

Deuteronomy 10:12, Today's English Version:

"Now, people of Israel, listen to what the Lord your God demands of you:

Worship the Lord, and do all that he commands.
Love him, serve him with all your heart.

What does a person look like when they worship? You might think of prayer. You might think of singing. You may think of going to church or taking communion. But worship is far, far more than all those things.

Here's another word which means the same as worship:

Romans 12:1, Today's English Version:

Because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

There's the word: "offer." The question is, offer what? You think finding Christmas gifts is hard for some people. What do you give a God who has everything?!? Very simple: it says "offer *yourselves*." You give God yourself: your love, your body, your time, your whole life. In fact, in that passage, it says that's what *true* worship is all about. It's much, much more than singing and praying and going to church.

Hosea 6:6, New Century Version:

I want faithful love more than I want animal sacrifices.
I want people to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

God says, "I don't want your sacrifices – I want your love! I don't want your offerings – I want you to know me!"

I've underlined the words "love" and "know" because that, friends, is the first purpose of your life – to know and love God. If you get that done, you have accomplished the most important thing in your life. The most important piece of knowledge you'll ever have is that God loves you. And the most important thing you can do in life is to love God back.

So every day before you get out of bed, sit on the edge of your bed and say something like this, a little prayer, "God, if I don't get anything else done today, at the end of this day, I want to know you a little bit better and I want to love you a little bit more." Because if you do that, at the end of your day, no matter how bad the day has gone, and no matter how many plans fell apart — if at the end of the day, you know God a little bit better and you love him a little bit more, that day was a success. That's why your heart is still beating. On the other hand, if you accomplish all kinds of tasks and mark everything off your ToDo list, but if at the end of the day you don't know God a little bit more and you don't love God a little bit better, you have just wasted that day.

The number one reason you were placed on this planet was to know God and love God. If you miss that, you have missed the number one point of your life.

2) Worship God in all your life

How do we worship God? How do we love God? Jesus says that we love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind. In other words, with all that we are, all of our lives.

Here's an example of how all of life can be worship: your job can be worship. That's right, when you're at work, that can be worship! And I don't mean listening to Christian music while you're working; I mean the actual job itself. I'll say it again: worship isn't just "religious" stuff: it's our whole life.

Colossians 3:23, Today's English Version:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings.

What if you prayed today: "God, tomorrow morning, I'm going to get up and I'm going to go back to work and it is the same old work I've been at for 10 years or 20 years or whatever, but this time I'm going back with a new boss. I'm going to do it for you."

That would turn mundane, trivial things that don't seem to mean a whole lot into worship. And honestly, that's the kind of worship God loves.

We looked earlier at Romans 12:1. I just love how *The Message* version of the Bible paraphrases that passage:

Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.

This is where the rubber meets the road. We spend only an hour or two in church a week. 99% of what we do for worship happens outside the church building. Even the special times we set aside each day for prayer and reading the Bible take up only a small portion of our time. Worship – loving God, serving God – happens in the ordinary, everyday things of real life, when you say, "God, I'm taking out the garbage for you." You can clean your room for the glory of God... and some of us need to!

Someone here may be thinking, "All this stuff about loving God – I can't do that. I just don't love God like that." You know what the issue is? It isn't that you don't love God enough. The problem is that you don't realize how much God loves you. That's your problem. If you really knew how much God loves and cares about every detail of your life, you'd fall on your knees and go, "Oh, how could I not love a God like that?"

If you only knew how much God loves you, what Jesus has gone through for you, how God watches over you with love – you know how parents feel when they watch their children? Multiply that a hundred times, and you have an idea of how much God loves you. The natural response to God's love is always to worship.

Next Steps:

- Give God the first place in your life. That's what love does.
- Go through Matthew 22:37-38 phrase by phrase: how can I love God with all my heart? All my soul? All my mind? Jot down any ideas which come to mind so you don't forget them. Then do it.