

## The Purpose of Maturity

### John 4:9 through John 4:18 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

<sup>11</sup>The woman said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

<sup>15</sup>The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

<sup>17</sup>The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

### Introduction:

What is God’s will for our lives? Last week we began to understand that Purpose driven ministry answers that question for us in a holistic way. I shared with you there are five things God wants for all of us. As we began our examination of Jesus’ ministry to the Samaritan woman, we learned the first purpose statement: “God wants us in his family.” God wants us in his family and is willing to go out of his way and put his reputation on the line to reach us.

Today as we continue looking at this ministry to the Samaritan woman, the Lord is going to reveal to us the Purpose of Maturity. We will examine two key points, share our second purpose statement, give you some action steps, and conclude for the day.

Look at verse 10.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

If only she knew. You know, we read the text and we know she was talking to Jesus, but she had no idea of who she was speaking with. She didn't know who he was personally. She didn't know who he was socially. She didn't know who he was spiritually. She didn't know who he was eternally. She didn't know who he was in relation to herself. She had no idea that he was the savior. She had no idea that he was the bread of life. She didn't know that he was the way, the truth, and the life.

*Which brings us to our first point:*

## **We Need To Know Better**

What we know is essential to our faith. We need to know the Lord, We need to know the word, and we need to know his will. Salvation is not the end of our faith experience. It's just the beginning. When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus, we are brought into the family of God.

### **Galatians 4:4 through Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

<sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

We are no longer strangers or servants. We are family through spiritual adoption. We are sons and daughters of God. Over the years, I have spent countless hours with kids from every walk of life. We've been on trips, worked on projects, and talked about life and God. But out of all of the time I have spent with those kids, nobody knows me like my kids. They know my ways, my likes, and dislikes. Faith even knew me before she was born. God is our heavenly Father and we should all do the work of getting to know him. The best way to get to know God is through his word.

### **John 1:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word is God and God is his Word. That same Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the word. Unfortunately many professing Christians today have a limited knowledge of God's word. We are just like this Samaritan woman who has no idea of who she is speaking with. We don't know the gift of God or the giver of the gift.

We don't know God intimately. We never quite get the living water is inside of us. A lot of people come to church to splash in the waters. We enjoy the music, we enjoy the

sermons, we enjoy the fellowship, but we don't own it. It isn't a part of who we are. We don't bring water with us on the inside. We come dry and we leave dry. We don't soak up any of the refreshing power of God.

One of the main causes of our lack of intimate knowledge is our reliance on others to tell us the details. We judge ministers and their credibility by every standard but the word of God. If the minister looks a certain way, sounds a certain way, is a certain age, has a church of a certain size, is writing books, is on television or radio, we sometimes sit back and rely on them to tell us what we want to hear rather than searching the scriptures for ourselves.

### **Acts 17:10 through Acts 17:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup>Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. <sup>12</sup>Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

The Jews in Berea were eager to hear the word, but they didn't allow what they knew about God to be limited by what Paul had to say. They didn't just latch on to something they heard. They searched it out for themselves. They didn't rely on the preacher to be right for them. They were right for themselves. The Jews in Berea knew better. The end result is that many of them **believed**. That word believed literally means to have faith or to entrust.

Look at verse 15.

<sup>15</sup>The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

<sup>17</sup>The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Once we know better, it's time to put what we know into action. Jesus tells her "Go, call your husband, and come here." He wants to address the sin issue. He wants to apply the knowledge of living waters to her life. God wants the same for us.

*Which leads to our second point:*

## **We Need To Do Better**

God has purposed for us to do better with what we know and believe. Throughout the scriptures God has spoken to his people in a manner that suggests he wants them to do better.

### **Deuteronomy 28:1 through Deuteronomy 28:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>“Now it shall come to pass, if you **diligently obey** the voice of the LORD your God, to **observe carefully** all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup>And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

### **Deuteronomy 28:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup>“But it shall come to pass, if you **do not obey** the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

### **Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may **observe to do** according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

### **Psalms 1:1 through Psalm 1:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
<sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.

### **Psalms 37:3 through Psalm 37:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.  
<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.  
<sup>5</sup> **Commit your way to the LORD,**  
Trust also in Him,  
And He shall bring *it* to pass.

**Psalm 119:9 through Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young man cleanse his way?

By **taking heed** according to Your word.

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You;

Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.

**Matthew 7:21 through Matthew 7:27 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will** of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

<sup>26</sup>“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

What does any of this have to do with the purpose of our lives? If God loves me so much and has made me a part of his family, isn't that enough? I've been baptized. I come to church. I give money. I'm in God's family, What more does God want? One of God's purposes for every person in his family is that they mature. So here is our second purpose statement:

“God wants to make me better.”

Now that we are in God's family, he wants us to look like him. He wants us to act like him. He wants us to represent him. God wants to teach us his ways. God wants to show us how to walk like our elder brother Jesus. He wants us to learn to talk like him. And God knows that his way is better than our way.

**Isaiah 55:7 through Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way,  
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
Let him return to the LORD,  
And He will have mercy on him;  
And to our God,

For He will abundantly pardon.

- <sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,  
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
- <sup>10</sup> “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth and bud,  
That it may give seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater,
- <sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

The truth is, our thoughts were leading us to destruction. Our ways were the reason why we needed a savior. God intends for the word he has spoken into our lives to change us. He wants to transform us. God makes us into new creatures so the old things can pass away and all things are made new.

He wants us to develop into his image and his likeness.

*“My life has purpose because God wants to make me better.” I’ll be better than I’ve ever been when I do his will. God has given me power to overcome sin because he wants to make me better. God is purging my heart because he wants to make me better. God is washing my mouth because he wants to make me better. God is changing my ways because he wants to make me better. God is transforming my heart because he wants to make me better.*

## **The Plan**

What is God’s will for your life? First, he wants you to become part of his family. Next he wants to change your life by applying his word to your actions. God wants to make you better. Here is what you do to fulfill that purpose in your life:

1. Get closer to God. Put yourself in a position to grow. Get around God’s people. Spend time in God’s house. Sing God’s praises.
2. Get into God’s word. Get a good Bible. Set aside some time to study, not just read. Make the sacrifice to participate in teaching ministries.

3. Apply the word to your life. Always ask who the word you read applies to your life or relates to real life circumstances today. In one of the sermons we shared last year we tried to incorporate this principle by teaching you James 3:10. That's where we find out *blessings and cursings should not come from the same fountain*. I challenge you to apply even more word to your lives so God can make you better.
4. Acknowledge your victories. As God helps you overcome sin, celebrate. As God causes you to change your attitudes, rejoice. Find others who will rejoice with you. Encourage others with your victorious Christian living.

## **Conclusion:**

A man named Charles Simpson once wrote:

I met a young man not long ago who dives for exotic fish for aquariums. He said one of the most popular aquarium fish is the shark. He explained that if you catch a small shark and confine it, it will stay a size proportionate to the aquarium. Sharks can be six inches long yet fully matured. But if you turn them loose in the ocean, they grow to their normal length of eight feet. That also happens to some Christians. I've seen some of the cutest little six-inch Christians who swim around in a little puddle. But if you put them into a larger arena--into the whole creation--only then can they become great.

Some of us are cute little six inch Christians. We haven't grown and matured because we stay confined to just a little bit of scripture that we know. We only pray little prayers. We are limited to very small ideas of who God is. We have only allowed God to purge us from a few little sins.

God wants to make us better. He wants to introduce us to the fullness of his word. He wants to reveal his limitless power and his unsearchable love. He has purposed maturity in the lives of every believer. And it doesn't matter whether we are six inches or eight feet. There is always room to grow.