

Why Am I Here?

John 9:1-11

Preface

Illus: Show video of lady who says she wants to serve Jesus but really she doesn't want to get out of her comfort zone.

God wants to use you. You might say, "But I don't have any talents or abilities." God wants to use you. "But I am not comfortable doing certain things." No, I mean God really wants to use you. He wants to use your life experiences, your time and your talents. He even intends to use your weaknesses.

Let's look at an encounter with Jesus that clearly shows how God plans to use us long before we can imagine.

Scripture Text

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³*"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.*

⁴*As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

⁶*Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.*

⁸*His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some claimed that he was.*

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰*"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.*

¹¹*He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." John 9:1-11 NIV*

Introduction

Many books have been written about our purpose in life. Rick Warren's book "Purpose Driven Life" is perhaps the most well know and it is an excellent book.

All of us at one time or another have asked those probing question, "Why am I here?" and "Why am I who I am?".

1. So the work of God might be displayed in our life

Notice that Jesus' disciples asked him the logical question. Whose sin made this man blind, his parent's or his own?

We tend to think that way don't we? We were taught the theory of cause and effect in school and that is how we think. We always look for the simple logical explanation for our circumstance. There has to be one somewhere!

Why am I the one to have this happen? Why did I have to lose my job? Why did my child have to be the one to have this happen? What did I do to deserve this in my life?

Listen carefully to the answer from Jesus. **"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."**

Wow, think about what our Lord is saying. God plans to use our life. He plans to use every aspect of our life, the good, the bad and the ugly long before we were even born.

You might ask if I am saying God made this man blind for the purpose of Jesus displaying this miracle at this appointed time. The answer is yes.

God intends to manifest himself through our strengths and talents. But, he also fully intends to manifest himself through our handicaps, infirmities, mistakes and weaknesses.

Illus: In 1882, at the age of 19 months, a little girl became blind as a result of what doctors then called "Brain Fever." God used the blindness of Helen Keller to reach people around the world.

David writes in Psalms that you are wonderfully made. That God doesn't just know you; he planned you and designed you. God wants to display himself through your life.

Why are you here? Why are you the person you are? So that the work of God might be displayed in your life.

2. To see God do a great work in our life

Jesus spits on the ground and makes mud to place on the man's eyes. Jesus then sends him to the Pool of Siloam to wash off the mud and receive his eye sight.

This became the experience of this man's life. This was his moment of revelation. This was his unsuspecting moment in which God the Creator was to visit his life, touch him and leave him changed forever.

Jesus turned a person of pity into a shining example. Jesus turned a blind beggar into a prophet of God's mercy and love. He turned an everyday occurrence of a blind street beggar into a story to be told thousands through the ages and around the world.

God wants to do a great work in each and every one of our lives. Not that each of our experiences will be as great as regaining our sight. But make no mistake God wills to do something spectacular in your life. Oh God may I not miss the moments.

You and I must grasp this. We should long for the moments when we see God do a work in our lives. We should recognize that life is short and only what we do for our Lord really matter.

Illus: A few years ago, we were blessed to have the Parker Trio perform in our church. A few months later, Warren Parker was killed while directing their bus into a church parking lot. This past week I went on their website to see if there was anything to read about them. His wife Shannan wrote the following:

"How can we live a life that will bring blessing? Where does your help come from? I have become so very aware that my actions, every decision, will impact not only me but those around me and those who will follow behind me. I must take responsibility for the path I choose and the blessing or curse I will bring to the generations to follow.

We have a great responsibility to those who cross our path. If it be for a short season or a lifelong relationship my life must remain a testimony to God's truth. Through the gentle season of summer or the harsh trials of winter I am to cling to God and trust Him. I myself must die that He can live in me and so His love can touch others through me."

Why are you here? To experience the great works of God in your life.

3. To worship God and tell others about Him

The man doesn't even get to enjoy his new found sight. While he is trying to take in all that he can now see and what has happened, the naysayers are already picking him apart.

Four times in this chapter they asked, "How were you healed?" First the neighbors asked and then the Pharisees. Not satisfied with his answer, the Pharisees then ask his parents and finally they interrogate the man again. "How were you healed?"

The Pharisees and neighbors were asking the wrong question. Instead of asking "How", they should have been asking "Who." As long as they focused on "How", it was incomprehensible. If they would only look at "Who", they would understand the "How".

Often, non-believers do not want to hear the truth about Jesus. Usually, the world wants to explain away or deny the work of Christ in people's lives.

But God desires for us to tell the world about the "Who" in the miracles of our life. God desires for his mighty work to be displayed in our life and for us to tell the world of it.

Illus: Who healed your marriage? Who healed your relationship with your father or mother? Who got you through those awful days following the loss of your son or daughter? Who forgave you of the sin of your past? Who healed you from the pain of divorce? Who brought you through the dark days of your life?

The blind man said, "I was blind but now I see! You and I need to be shouting to the world; Jesus! I was hopeless but now I have purpose! I was dyeing inside but now I am alive!

In verse 38, we find, ³⁸ *Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him."*

This man's eyes were opened to see the world. More importantly, his eyes were opened to see Jesus. His eyes were opened to tell others. His eyes were opened to be free to live for God and worship the Savior.

Why are you here? To worship God and tell others about God.

Conclusion

Yesterday, 7 of us attended a seminar at Faith Baptist titled 'Holy Homes.' It was conducted by Clay and Renee Crosse. The entire seminar is based on the idea of turning over your family and life to Christ and allowing Him to be the head of your home.

In the presentation, Clay and Renee get brutally honest about their life and their marriage. In 1998 while walking into church one Sunday morning, Clay says to Renee in that serious and urgent tone, "We've got to talk."

Clay and Renee go on to tell those of us at the seminar how Clay confessed to her that he was not right with God and that he was dishonoring their marriage and God by looking at pornography.

They call that Sunday afternoon their "Ground Zero Moment." They then share with the people at their seminars how God has healed and blessed their marriage.

This dark moment in Clay's life and their marriage is now their ministry. As painful and embarrassing as it might be, Clay has to speak of his sinful past. But God's grace covers over the shame. The miracle of the healing overcomes the pain.

God wants to take the pain and shame of your past and do great things with it. He wants to heal you and use your experiences to help others and draw others to His message of forgiveness.

You are here because of God. You are here to experience a great work in your life that will display the majesty of God.

Will you recognize this and seize the opportunity?