

St. Matthew AME Church
Orange, New Jersey
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

**Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, May 13, 2023**

May-June Series: "On Assignment "

"I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do."
John 17:4 MSG

Session I: "It All Starts With God."

"For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, everything got started in Him and find its purpose in Him."
Colossians 1:16

I. Scripture Background

" I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do."
John 17:4

- Many people believe that John 17 is one of the greatest prayers that has ever been uttered in human language. It is an amazing prayer, from the lips of Jesus Himself just before He went to the cross, with such incredible insights about Himself and us and the mission God sent Him on. We want to be able to pray this same prayer.

- There are several ways John 17:4 applies to each of us, and can guide our prayers and our actions.

- This prayer reminds us that God has given each of us a work to do.

- God had given Jesus some specific assignments when He came here to earth:

- He had to fulfill a number of Scriptures with His life and ministry. Isaiah 61:1

- He was to teach us God's Word. Matthew 21:23

- He was to live as an example so that we could follow " in His steps." Luke 9:23

- And He was to die on the cross as a payment for our sins, and rise again to be our Savior.

I Peter 2:24

- The work that Jesus did on the cross was the work the Father gave Him to do. The initiative came from the Father. Salvation rests on the "finished work" of Christ.

- The finished work of Christ means that we have no work to do for salvation.

- Christ was now handing in His final report(assignment) of His work here on earth. He had done everything necessary for our salvation. Jesus glorified the Father by accomplishing His purpose/assignment on earth to save sinners.

- No one can add anything to His completed work of salvation.

- What can be added to Jesus's redemptive work, His long night of suffering is over. He's no longer on the cross. The full course of His obedience is over. Christ finished. We haven't! But with Him you will.
- Each one of us need to consider: am I doing the work which the Lord gave me to do?
- There is no false "dividing line" between "sacred work and "secular work. "As Christians we have been called to sacred work, every day, in whatever we are doing. We are to glorify God in it. We can glorify God in all kinds of vocations, not just full-time ministry.

II. Session I: "It All Starts With God"

" For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible...everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."
Colossians 1:16 MSG

- You are alive because God wanted to create you! He has a reason for everything He creates.

" The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me." Psalm 138:8a

- Because God made you for a reason, He also decided when you would be born and how long you would live. He planned the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death.

"You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book." Psalm 139:16

- God also planned where you'd be born and where you'd live for His purpose. God left no detail to chance. He planned it all for His purpose.
 - Regardless of the circumstances of your birth or who your parents are, God had a plan in creating you. It doesn't matter whether your parents were good, bad or indifferent. God knew that these two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the custom "you" He had in mind.
 - You must begin with God, your Creator. You exist because God wills that you exist. You were made by God and for God- and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance and our destiny.
 - You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not your using Him for our own purpose.

III. "Know Your Value"

Your value is rooted in the unwavering opinion of God. Your value is based on your identity as a child of God.

" Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for your life." Isaiah 43:4

- God gave other nations to Persia in exchange for returning the Jews to their homeland.

"So, God created man in His own image in the image of God He created male and female He created. Genesis 1:27

- That we are made by God, in the image of God is what gives us deep value. Being created in the image of God is our unique capacity to share with God: the experience of personality, beauty, love, kindness, patience and so many more attributes.
- It is dangerous for us to compare ourselves with others. When we compare ourselves with others we may feel pride because we think we are better. Then on the other hand, we may feel less than someone. Don't worry about other people's accomplishments. Instead, continually ask how does my life measure up to what God wants.
- Each one of us is valuable. We all were placed on this planet for a special assignment. There are no insignificant assignments in the church, home, community or the world. Some are visible and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable.

IV. "The Hard Facts"

"Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31

God's love must so permeate our motives that all we do will be for His glory. Our purpose in life is to give Our God glory and show His love. God gives us assignments throughout our lives. Some assignments may last for a lifetime and some may just last for a season.

" SOME HARD FACTS"

1. Make yourself available. Don't fill up your time with other activities that could limit your ability to do the assignment. If you only serve when it's convenient for you, you're not a real servant. Real servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient.

- Are you available to God anytime?
- Can God mess up your plans without you becoming resentful?
- NEVER TELL ANYONE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN HELP THEM NOW. Proverbs 3:28

2. Do your best with what you have. When you are on an assignment, don't make excuses, procrastinate, or wait for better circumstances. God expects you to do what you can with what you have wherever you are.

3. No matter how big or small the assignment, "do it with all your heart. You will never arrive at the state in life where you're too important to help with menial tasks. Jesus specialized in menial tasks that everyone else tried to avoid: washing feet, helping children, fixing breakfast and serving lepers.

- Great opportunities often disguise themselves in small tasks.

4. Don't leave an assignment half undone, and don't quit when you get discouraged. Today most people don't know the meaning of commitment. They make commitments casually, then break them for the slightest reason without any hesitation, remorse, or regret.

LET'S ASK GOD TO HELP US LIVE AND SERVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE CAN PRAY JESUS' PRAYER FOR AT THE END OF EACH DAY, AND LIKE HE DID, AT THE END OF OUR LIFE.

June 2023 Bible Study: " Nothing Wasted"