

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

Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, June 10, 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 II: "Nothing Wasted"

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 KJV

I. Review of Session I: "It All Starts with God "

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

- The night before He was crucified, Jesus reported to His Father, " I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." When Jesus prayed these words, He had not died for our sins, so what "work" had he completed? In this instance He was referring to something other than the atonement. The answer lies in what He said in the next twenty verses of His prayer in John 17.

- Jesus told His Father what He had been doing for the last three years: preparing His disciples to live for God's purposes. He helped them to know and love God(worship), taught them to love each other(fellowship), gave them the Word so they could grow to maturity(discipleship), showed them how to serve(ministry), and sent them out to tell others(mission).

THIS WORK BROUGHT GLORY TO GOD.

- John 17 tells us that Jesus was handing in His final report(assignment) of His work here on earth. He had done everything necessary for salvation. Jesus glorified God by accomplishing His purpose/ assignment on earth.

" 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

- Because God made you for a reason, He also decided when you would be born and how long you would live.

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

"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 designed each of us so there would be no duplication in the world. No one has the same mix of factors that make you unique. That means no one else on earth will ever be able to play the role God planned for you.

Remember, you are valuable!

- All of our abilities come from God.
- Part of the church's responsibility is to identify and release your abilities for serving God, so that we will be able to fulfill our assignments here on earth.
- Every ability is used to glorify God.
- You are the only person on earth who can use your abilities. God equips you with all you need for doing His will.

"equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. "Amen. Hebrews 13:21

- You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for His purposes, not us using Him for our own purpose.
- You were saved to serve.
- What you are able to do, God wants you to do. Don't spend your time wishing you could have some ability God has not ordained for your life. If you spend time thinking or worrying about what you can't do, you will miss out on what God has called you to do.
 - Do your best with what you have.
 - Make yourself available
 - There is no big or small assignment!

II. Session II. "Nothing Wasted"

" And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 KJV

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and we are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28 NLT Bible

"And we know (with great confidence) that God (who is deeply concerned about us) causes all things to work together (as a plan) for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.

Romans 8:28 AMP Bible

- Romans 8:28 is one of the most memorized and quoted verses in the New Testament. This scripture brings comfort, direction and hope to Christians. Unfortunately, it's one of the most misquoted and misunderstood verses in the Bible.

- God works in "all things" - not just isolated incidents- for our good. This does not mean that all that happens to us is good. Evil is prevalent in our fallen world, but God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long- range good.

- Note that God is not working to make us happy, but to fulfill, His purpose.
 - Note also that this promise is not for everybody. It can be claimed only by those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
 - Those who are " called" are those the Holy Spirit convinces and enables to receive Christ. Such people have a new perspective and a new mind-set on life. They trust in God.
 - They learn to accept, not resent pain and persecution because God is with them.
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- This is a promise for believers. God is the one making this promise. God has an exemplary track record of doing what He says He will do. The confidence in this statement comes only because God is the one making it happen. If you remove God, none of the promise works.
 - God has the ability to maneuver situations in our lives. Everything moves at God's command. When you look at your life, God is at work in it. God is on the job looking out for you.
 - All things means all things. God works in your successes and good times and God also works in your failures and your bad ones too. God works all things for good when you do them right and does the same when you do them wrong.
 - "For good." God works in your life for your benefit and He has your best interest at heart.

"EXPERIENCE IS NOT WHAT HAPPENS TO A MAN. IT IS WHAT A MAN DOES WITH WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM." Aldous Leonard Huxley

III. "Don't Waste Your Experiences"

God uses our experiences to shape and prepare us for our assignments. God will use our family, educational, vocational, spiritual and even painful experiences to minister to others. The lessons we have learned from these experiences will help someone else to overcome.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

- What has God taught me from failure?
 - What has God taught me from a lack of money?
 - What has God taught me from pain, sorrow or depression?
 - What has God taught me about waiting?
 - What has God taught me through illness?
 - What has God taught me from disappointment?
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- None of our experiences in life should be wasted. The most painful experiences can be the most effective when ministering to others.
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- God never wastes a hurt. In fact, our greatest service, ministry, assignment will most likely come out of your greatest hurt.
 - The Bible says, "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." II Corinthians 1:3-4

If you really desire to be used by God, you must understand a powerful truth. The very experience that you have resented or regretted most in life - the ones you've wanted to hide and forget- are the experiences God wants to use to help others.

- For God to use your painful experiences, you must be willing to share them.
- Paul understood this truth, so he was honest about his bouts with depression. He admitted, " I think you ought to know dear brothers about this hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for He can even raise the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect Him to do it again and again."

II Corinthians 1:8-10

If Paul had kept his experience of doubt and depression a secret; millions of people would never have benefited from it.

DON'T WASTE YOUR EXPERIENCES!

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

- IS TO GLORIFY GOD
- IS TO SHOW THE LOVE OF GOD
- IS TO USE THE ABILITIES, GIFTS AND TALENTS TO BUILD UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD
- IS TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY
- IS CUSTOM MADE FOR YOU BY GOD

"SISTERS, YOU ARE ON AN ASSIGNMENT!"