

Purpose-full

10.28.2024 - Purpose-full Living (Luke 12:22-34)

1. What are the things in your life that tend to cause worry or anxiety? How might you release some of that worry by trusting in God's provision?
2. Jesus emphasizes the value of generosity. How might giving to others, especially those in need, change your perspective on what you have?
3. The rich fool in Jesus' parable focused on storing up wealth for himself. In what ways do you see "building bigger barns" in your own life, and how might you shift toward a more kingdom-focused purpose?
4. How can you reframe your daily priorities to emphasize living with purpose and serving others over acquiring more possessions?
5. Reflect on the phrase "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What does this mean to you, and how might it guide your choices?

11.4.2024 - Purpose-full Joy (Luke 15: 1-10)

1. "Are you part of the party, or are you a grumbling onlooker?" How do you personally respond to God's grace given to others, especially those who may seem least deserving?
2. In the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin, who do you identify with most—the lost items, the seekers, or the onlookers? How does that perspective shape your understanding of God's love and grace?
3. In the podcast, Pastor Melissa mentions that "the emphasis in this story is not on lostness – but on the seeking and finding." How does it feel to consider that God actively seeks you, even in moments when you're not seeking God?
4. These parables end in celebration. In what ways can we, as a community, celebrate and support each other's journeys of being "found" by God?
5. In the episode, Pastor Melissa points out that some people may be "lost inside the house" without realizing it. Have there been times in your life when you felt lost, even while remaining close to faith or community? What helped you to feel "found" again?
6. "Those who find God's mercy offensive cannot celebrate with the angels when a sinner repents." What barriers might prevent us from truly celebrating God's mercy in others' lives? How can we overcome these?
7. How can you intentionally cultivate joy, not just for your own blessings, but for God's grace in the lives of others?

11.11.2024 - Purpose-full Generosity (Luke 14:1, 7-24)

1. How does Jesus' approach to meals and hospitality challenge our own views of who we invite into our lives and communities?
2. In what ways do we seek "places of honor" in our social or professional lives, and how can we practice humility instead?

3. What does it mean to you to "extend your table?" Who in your life might need an invitation to belong or feel welcome?
4. Jesus emphasizes inviting those who cannot repay us. How can we practice generosity with no expectation of return?
5. Pastor Melissa speaks about the "seating chart" of God's Kingdom. What might it look like to align our values with this Kingdom order?
6. Reflect on a time when you felt overlooked or left out. How might that experience inform the way you welcome others?
7. How can we use our resources and influence to create a more equitable "table" in our communities?

11.18.2024 - Purpose-full Gratitude (Luke 17:11-19)

1. How do you practice gratitude in your daily life? In what ways has expressing gratitude deepened your faith or relationships?
2. What boundaries—social, cultural, or personal—might you be called to cross in your own life, as Jesus did? How can we better welcome and learn from those who experience marginalization?
3. How do you understand the connection between healing, salvation, and wholeness in your spiritual journey? Have you ever experienced a moment of transformation similar to the Samaritan leper's "turning around"?
4. How might privilege shape or limit your ability to experience deep gratitude or faith? What steps can you take to cultivate humility and a heart of thankfulness despite layers of privilege?
5. What does this story teach us about the importance of expressing gratitude directly to God? How might this Thanksgiving season serve as an opportunity for you to intentionally practice faith through thankfulness?