

Living With Purpose

Mark 1:35-45

1. Prayerful dependence vs. 35

It did not matter how busy Jesus was, He would seek to have prayer time with Father God, sustaining His relationship with His Father. Jesus' ministry is not simply what He does for humanity, but also in who He is in relation to Father God.

How do we sustain our relationship with God? Through prayerful dependence. It is important to have our quiet time with God as our new identity is found in Him; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Question:

- What are some practical ways you can prioritize spending quality time with the Lord each day?

2. Oriented to God's Missions vs. 36-39

Already on the first day of ministry, Jesus' mission is endangered, as his disciples want Jesus to capitalize on his popularity as a miracle worker. However, Jesus remains focused on His purpose of proclaiming the good news. (Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus has given the church an important purpose to go make mature, multiplying disciples. If we do not remain focused on God's purpose, our church will be endangered of becoming a church that is focused more on things of the world.

Question:

- When you look at your weekly rhythm, does it focus on God's purpose for your life?
- What is the difference between someone's life that is oriented by God, and someone's life that is oriented by the world's desires or of popular opinion?

3. Willing to Love vs. 40-45

Although society's treatment towards the leper limited the leper from experiencing love and compassion from others. Jesus instead did not turn from the leper but was willing to have compassion and love towards him. Because of this man's faith, Jesus' healing removed his reality of social, physical, and spiritual separation.

Do we place limits on the love God calls us to show? As followers of Jesus, we love others because that is our identity. Let us not be on the lookout for someone who is worthy of our love but love the way Jesus loved the leper.

Question:

- How would you explain to someone the commandment “Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31)? How does one live out this commandment? What does this kind of love look like?