Your Purpose, Calling and Gifting from God (and your weakness)

**Experience your purpose, calling and gifts from God**

**Monday**

Read Exodus 1

* *What is your backstory? Whether good or bad, what circumstances have made you who you are and given you the purpose that burns in your heart?*

**Tuesday**

Read Exodus 2

* *Find at least three purposes that Moses exhibited. Notice that in some cases he mismanaged his purpose. Spend some time reflecting on clues of what your purpose might be…that is, the purpose God has given you from birth.*

**Wednesday**

Read Exodus 3, Jeremiah 29:11-14

* *Moses came ‘face to face’ with God and was called to execute a specific plan. Write down what you would be willing to do to hear God call you. Whatever you are willing to do to have this encounter with God, start doing it today.*

**Thursday**

Read Exodus 4:1-5, Skim through Exodus 7, 8 and 14 and find stories about Moses’ staff

* *When God calls you, He equips you with gifts to accomplish what He has called you to do. God asked Moses what he had in his hand (a staff). What do you ‘have in your hand’ that seems insignificant? Ask God to show you what you have that He wants to use as your gift.*

**Friday**

Read Exodus 4:10-17, 2 Corinthians 12:9,10

* *God will always use you in your weakness to prove His great power. What weaknesses are you living with? Can you embrace your weakness and let God’s power shine through it? Pray about this and see what God shows you.*

Wednesday night question:

*How can you know if you or someone you know have been saved by God?*

*Read what the Bible says:*

Romans 10:9-13

Mark 8:35

Hosea 1:7

1 Timothy 1:15

Ephesians 2:8,9

*What does the Bible teach?*

Your purpose, calling and gifting from God (and your weaknesses)

Exodus 1

**1**These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: **2**Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; **3**Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; **4**Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. **5**The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

**6**Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, **7**but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

**8**Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. **9**“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. **10**Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

**11**So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. **12**But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites **13**and worked them ruthlessly. **14**They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

**15**The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, **16**“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” **17**The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. **18**Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

**19**The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

**20**So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. **21**And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

**22**Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

What is your backstory? What has molded you in the person you are today (whether good or bad)?

Exodus 2

**2**Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, **2**and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3**But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4**His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

**5**Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. **6**She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

**7**Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

**8**“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. **9**Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. **10**When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

**11**One day, after Moses had grown up (40 years old), he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. **12**Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

What purpose do we find inside of Moses at this time? - Deliverer. He was born with purpose.

Purpose finally took hold of Moses when he was 40 years old. When are you going to start acting on the purposes God has given you?

**13**The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

**14**The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us?

What purpose do we find inside of Moses at this time? - Judge. He was born with purpose.

Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

**15**When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian (modern day Saudia Arabia bordering southern Jordan), where he sat down by a well. **16**Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father’s flock. **17**Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

What purpose do we find inside of Moses at this time? - Rescuer. He was born with purpose.

**18**When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, “Why have you returned so early today?”

**19**They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.”

**20**“And where is he?” Reuel asked his daughters. “Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.”

**21**Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. **22**Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,[c] saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

**23**During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **24**God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **25**So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Exodus 3

**3**Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

What purpose do we find inside of Moses at this time? - Shepherd leader. He was born with purpose.

Deliverer

Judge

Rescuer

Shepherd leader

Moses’ purpose surfaced here and there throughout his life, sometimes expressing himself wrongly. Why? He hadn’t received His calling from God yet.

The call of God appeals to the purpose that is already within us.

The American dream is the curse of the middle class. Be careful with pursuing a ‘purposeless’ education.

**2**There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3**So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

**4**When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

**5**“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” **6**Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

**7**The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8**So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9**And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10**So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

God’s calling to Moses was to fulfill his purpose from birth, his purpose finally takes shape.

Do you have a sense of purpose, yet to experience God’s calling? Do you have frustrated purpose?

God’s calling brings your purpose to life.

God’s calling turns your purpose from a self-purpose to an outward facing purpose, to help others. A Kingdom of Heaven purpose.

How do you get a call from God?

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord,

**11**But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

**12**And God said, “I will be with you.

With every calling from God comes His promise to be with you. “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” (Prophetic)

**13**Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

**14**God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

More an answer for Moses than for the Israelites…”I am” EVERYTHING you will need.

Provision

Healing

Protection

Savior

Make a way where there is no way

What have you come to know about God that you didn’t used to know? What needs has He taken care of that has made you know Him in a new way?

**15**God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,

    the name you shall call me

    from generation to generation.

**16**“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. **17**And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’

**18**“The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ **19**But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. **20**So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

**21**“And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. **22**Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

Finally your purpose has a plan, a roadmap for how you can fulfill the frustration of your purpose.

When God calls you, He begins to make known to you the specifics of His plan.

Exodus 4

**4**Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

**2**Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

**3**The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. **4**Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. **5**“This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

With God’s call comes living gifts that compliment your calling.

Just as God’s calling brings your purpose to life, His calling brings your gifts and talents to life as well.

God asks you what is in your hand? Not much, just a staff.

With this staff, Moses had been fulfilling his purpose of shepherding.

…possibly he used his staff to rescue those shepherdesses in Midian

…possibly he used his staff to establish he was a judge between the two Hebrews (the staff at that time was a sign of being a judge and ruler - Genesis 49:10)

…possibly he used his staff to kill the Egyptian who was beating the Hebrews

But now his staff came to life and proved to be a gift that would confirm God’s calling on Moses’ life.

With his staff, Moses:

* staff swallowed up the other sorcerer’s snakes
* Changed the Nile river into blood
* Stretched out the staff to bring the plagues onto Egypt
* Divided the Red Sea so the Israel could cross on dry land, and caused the waters to drown the Egyptians who followed them
* Raise the staff so that Israel defeated the Amalekites
* Struck a rock so that water came out

What is in your hand that God wants to use?

His call to you can bring to life:

* the healing of others from the hurts you have gone through
* Experience or knowledge that you have that will help others
* Spiritual insight or understanding
* A skill or talent that you need to use not for yourself but for the glory of God and the help of others

But you know what you need first??? You need God Almighty to call you. Seek Him with all your heart!!!

Ex. My call

………

**10**Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

**11**The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **12**Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

**13**But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

**14**Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. **15**You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. **16**He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. **17**But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

You may have powerful purpose, you may have a call from God, you may have spectacular gifts BUT you will always have personal weaknesses.

I have to sleep 8 hours a night

I don’t have high energy

I get distracted easily

I get overwhelmed all the time

Just to name a few…

What are your weaknesses? God wants to work through more than your strengths…He will always work through your weaknesses.

Mark 8:34

**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. - embrace your weaknesses

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

In Summary:

* God put His purpose in you since birth
* God wants to call you to your destiny and fulfill His purpose for you
* God wants to equip you with gifts to fulfill His call (gifts for others and not just yourself)
* But always remember, He will still work through your weakness to His power can be acknowledged

Romans 11:29 for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.