

Matthew 11:28-30

What Jesus Has to Say about Purpose

- Red Letters Series -

How many of you have heard of the book the Purpose Driven life?

A)PDL – has sold over 32 million copies worldwide.

B)It remains the bestselling hardcover non-fiction book in all of history

1)It is the second most translated book after the Bible.

C)Why was this book so popular with people across the world?

D)Answer: There is a deep seeded longing in the heart of every human being – to Know **WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.**

The search through the ages-

A)The Generation growing up in the 1940-1950 – The Purpose or meaning of life was to be good. **Good people**

B)They believed that if they were good enough they would get to heaven

C)Then that switched in the 1960's -early 2,000's – the purpose of life was **to be free to discover your true self**

1)Pursuit of pleasure, possessions, experiences, - quest for the meaning of self – Find my true identity

D)Today people are looking for their purpose in life – in causes.

1)I want to help change the world

E)Today the focus is not on finding oneself – but creating oneself –

1)what do I want to stand for and be known that I am about ?

Problem with each one of those mindset –

A)Never good enough – dealing with guilt

B)Trying to find oneself – in the pursuit of pleasure, possessions experiences etc

1)The Problem is nothing brings lasting satisfaction

C)And for those today who are trying to find their purpose in a cause – creating themselves –

1)some social action – exhausting - Never ending – vicious cycle

D)Often Leads to frustration, disillusionment – even depression

To everyone in anyone of those groups or mindsets – Jesus offers this great Invitation Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Three part invitation

A)COME – TAKE – LEARN

B)COME: Come to me -

1)Awesome contrast to the religions of man – all say Do

C)Every religious system of man is all about what man must do in order to get to God.

1)“**DO!**” was the mantra of the Pharisees

FOLLOW THE LAW – to be right with God!!!

D)Jesus says Come because the work is **DONE!!!**

1)Repeat: -

E)He did the work – He paid the price

1)**IT IS FINISHED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Jesus says V. 28 **Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

A)Literal translation –**I will rest you**

B)Jesus offers us Rest From – the weariness of trying to be good enough or trying to find satisfaction in pleasure

1)Or in our identity in some causes or in being known or liked by the right group or people

C)He invites us to Rest from the weight of sin and guilt – **because Jesus took that YOKE UPON HIMSELF -for us at Calvary**

D)The first thing that we find in this great invitation is **the call to COME**

But we don't just find rest in coming to Jesus we also find purpose:

A)Our purpose is found in the next word -TAKE **TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU.....**

B)A yoke was that wooden harness that they put upon the oxen so that they could pull the plow.

C)Common Custom: In order to train a younger smaller Ox –

1)a farmer would Yoke him with an older bigger OX

D)The pressure and weight was put on the older ox – the younger ox – learned the ropes.

1)THE younger - **OX is being broken** into the yoke but he is not actually pulling much of the weight.'

Jesus invites people to be yoked to Him.

A)See the REST that Jesus invites us into is an ACTIVE REST

B)To Rest in his finished work and his grace to do what he has called us to do.

C)But He invites us to be a part of his mission – We have a role to play in the world. – His KINGDOM

D)We discover that we have been redeemed for a Purpose

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

A)Workmanship – Poema – Poem – a work of art Masterpiece

B)But note: It is not Our anatomy is not what makes us his workmanship-

C)It is our Redemption - Key phrase – Created in Christ

This is a Restoration of the fall in the Garden – Adam and Eve – created in the Image of God –

A)Called to be image bearers

B)But Sin wrecked that – stain on the image

C)JESUS came to redeem man out of sin – restore to his original calling – Image bearers of God

To the Redeemed Jesus declares – Matthew 5 **Light your light so shine before men in such a way – see good works glorify ... heaven**

A)That is our purpose as His workmanship – To live in a way that brings glory to God

B)**Workmanship Poema = Masterpiece-works of Art**

1)Art is always the expression of the Artist

C)Means - **We get to be living breathing expressions of Jesus to the world that is around us.**

Note what he says – we are his workmanship created for good works - which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

A)One translation puts that last line -that we should walk in – that we can step into

B)Everyday – opportunity **to step into something** that God has prepared for us –
1)a new moment – where we get to shine

C)This is the plan and purpose that Jesus invites us into when he says and take my yoke upon you.

Many Bible scholars believe that when Jesus was a CARPENTER:

A)HE PROBABLY MADE A LOT OF YOKES

B)A YOKE WAS CAREFULLY FITTED for the OX who would wear it.

C)Jesus has a plan and purpose that has been carefully fitted for you.

The exact idea that is presented in V. 30- ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

A)The word easy can be translated – well fitting.

B)Why we can say – Jesus loves you and has a perfect plan – WELL FITTING

1)Tailored Suit – Fitted Dress – Perfect fit

MY CALLING:

A)I wanted to be a Coach – teach baseball – God says – I want you to be a different Kind of Coach – Pastor

B)I can't imagine doing anything else
1)Taken me all over the world – train Pastors / equip people

C)Inspired me to write a book about being a Pastor that – I keep meeting guys – Reading it / blessed by it

Eric Liddell – Made me fast and I feel his pleasure when I run

A)WHAT is it in your life – Feel his pleasure.

B)He has wired you in a certain way – Art – detail – music –
1)Technological

C)Some of you Mothers – wired – you knew when you were a little girl
1)I want to be a mom – Shaping young lives is your calling right now

His Yoke is well Fitting – and that is why it is not a burden

A)My yoke is easy – burden is light

B)HIS YOKE IS MEANT TO BE A BLESSING – NOT A BURDEN

C)Like when the Younger OX is yoked to the older ox –

1)the Older Ox is carrying the brunt of the weight

D)We experience that in Jesus - His burden is light because –
1)whatever it is that Jesus calls us to – we find that he also empowers us to carry it out.

E)He enables you to do more than you could ever imagine yourself doing

So in this Great invitation: Jesus invites us to Come to Him

A)In Him we find Rest from our weariness – guilt sin – emptiness

B)But we also find our purpose in Being YOKED to Him –

1)His plan and purpose for our lives – His workmanship

C)But Jesus also wants us to understand that – THIS PLAN is really an ongoing revelation that involves a daily surrender

That is what is meant in the next phrase Take my Yoke upon you and Learn of me for I am gentle and lowly in heart

A)Lowly = Humble

B)Gentle is the same word translated Meek in the Beatitudes – blessed are the MEEK

THINK ABOUT THIS: Of all the attributes that Jesus could have USED to DESCRIBE himself

A)He chooses HUMILITY and meekness

B) He doesn't say: For I am mighty and powerful
1)He doesn't say I am all-knowing and – ever present

C)He doesn't say- I am perfect in righteousness and holiness – Why?

We are not those things: We can't be those things in and of ourselves.

A)He uses two attributes that really are **learned BEHAVIOR** –

B)Two attributes that were at the heart of Jesus life as a man – who was in submission to his father

C)Philippians 2: 5-8 ⁵ **Let this mind** be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **CLUTCHED** ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and became obedient to *the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

D)In Humility – He lowered himself – He left heaven and came to this earth –

1)HIS PURPOSE: DIE – SACRIFICE – obedient unto death – So that WE COULD BE SAVD

JESUS says: Learn of me – I am lowly – He is saying a key to discovering your purpose

A)Humble yourself before the Lord - - His plan

B)But Jesus also said **For I am I MEEK** – meekness is not weakness – Meekness is power under control

C)Describes one who is *yielded, teachable, responsive*

This is what Jesus wants us to pay attention to

A)Think about this - He is God in Human flesh – He is all powerful

B)And yet he made himself subject to his father

C)He is all powerful **but** He is submitted and led

1)**I do nothing apart from the father.**

D)His Power / His person is submitted to the father

When Religious leaders are coming against him plotting to murder him – Accusing him – of the Devil

A)He could have **destroyed them with the word of His power** – spoke – turned into pillars of salt

B)Calmed Storms and cast out demons and raise the dead –

1)He could have easily did away with the religious leaders – but he doesn't Why?

C)He is submitted to His Father – His power has been brought under the control of Father- He is Yoked to his Father: Plan/ Purpose

JESUS says Learn of me: Learn FROM ME the secret of being Yoked TO ME

A)Learn what it means to be a person – yielded and responsive to me – MY PLAN

B)LISTEN: SOME OF US ARE EXHAUSTED

1)WE DON'T DO THIS –

C)Exhausted because we are constantly pulling against the YOKE – OUR PLAN

Jesus graciously says: Take my Yoke and learn of me

A)Yoke yourself to me – learn what it means to live humbly – and in Meekness

B)TAKE every part of your being – your gifts – your personality – your desires –

1)Bring them in submission under my leadership

C)That is the invitation: Trusting – He knows what is best!

1)He loves you and redeemed you for a purpose – to be HIS workmanship

Transition:

Discovering our Purpose is an ongoing Revelation

A)The Lord calls us to things in different seasons

B)The gifts and talents God have given us remain the same – **but they grow – widen – more dialed in**

C)But the resources change – expand

1) AND The opportunities change

I can look at all the seasons of my life – See where opportunities changed.

A)Started – Youth - Now adults – Marriages

B)Started -Youth retreats / conferences

1)Now Pastors – Men – Marriages

C)Single – married – Kids – now grandpa

Empty Nester 3 years ago – YAY!

A)Excited to be a grandpa – grandma – spoil and send home

B)Our Empty nest syndrome lasted 1 year

C)Due to some unforeseen circumstances – My 29 year old daughter moved in – **2yr old Grandson**

1)NEW OPPORTUNITY - poor into his life Be a bigger part of his life. – OK! Grace

Close: Discover your real purpose?

Come – Take – be yoked – Learn –

A)Not just saved – but surrendered – **Disciple**

All Disciples are believers, but not all believers are disciples – Greg Laurie

B)You are saved – but are you surrendered?

C)That is the only place where you will find your true purpose