

# **What's My Purpose?**

## **Created for Significance series**

### **by Chris Famisaran**

Thank you to our praise team, we greatly appreciate you. I do have one bone of contention though. Sebastian, have you always known how to play the bass? You've been hiding that from me. All right. No, seriously, thank you as well. Let's give a hand to our praise team. I like to call on our almost acoustic Sabbath. Thank you all sounded wonderful. And thank God thank you all for joining us today. My wife sends her regards. She caught a bug this week at work. So she's quietly relaxing with our pup.

Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you, Lord for another day of life be with us now as we get a new series created for significance. In Jesus name, amen.

Claire Wineland. Anybody ring a bell. Claire Wineland was born with cystic fibrosis and was given about 10 years to live. And despite this illness, she was always optimistic, full of life. At the age of 13, though, her lungs collapse and she was in a coma, and the doctors gave her 1% chance to live 1%. And yet, after 16 days, she came out of coma, and the near death experience had radically transformed her understanding of what mattered most in life. When she was 14, she knew she did not plan to live forever. She was on borrowed time. What did she do, she wanted to make sure that her life had purpose, she could give a gift that keeps on giving. She started a foundation called the Clarity Project, where she would raise money for children who are terminally ill with cystic fibrosis. For the rest of her teenage years, she would go around giving speeches, inspirational speeches, such as "The quality of your life isn't determined by whether you're healthy or sick or rich or poor. It's determined by what you make out of your experience as a human being." Teenager wrote that said that? "Oh, the moment you realize it's not about avoiding suffering. It's about making something from your suffering. You're incredibly free." And when you hear Claire deliver these truth bombs, it's hard to believe that she was just a teenager when she mentioned these things. Sadly, she only lived. She did live to the age of 21 outlasting more than the 10 year prediction by 11 years. She recently passed in 2018. Many would say that her

awareness of her own mortality as well with the possibility that she almost died, helped her understand that life is precious. You know, we sometimes go through life. Do we stop to realize the majesty that God has given us of life? Or do we just say this life is horrible? And not to demean there, I have to say there are many people who struggle. I'm not I'm not negating that. What we do with our struggles, though, what we sometimes when we're handed a bad sandwich, we can always go find something good. Claire was able to live meaningfully. She knew that she would not live 100 years, but she wanted to do something to make a difference. Every day she woke up with purpose to help children who were sick.

When you look through the Scriptures, the Bible, anybody stand out to you that lived with purpose. Just shout them out. Within reason about Moses, okay, did Moses get up every day with purpose? Did Moses want to get up every day? Probably not. Especially when people were griping. Joshua, did he lead with purpose? Absolutely. Jeremiah, Solomon, Abraham. Well, Abraham got sidetracked a number of times. meant to do well, Paul, Timothy, did they lead with purpose? Absolutely.

I want to start today with chapter 14 of Luke, Luke chapter 14. We find Jesus at another party. Yes, yes, yes. Another gathering dinner. And we find him on Sabbath by the way, on Sabbath, not after Sabbath, before Sabbath. During Sabbath. Verse one, chapter 14, verse one, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent, by the way, note that prominent Pharisee he was being carefully what was being watched. What was he going to do? What was he going to say? And by chapter 14, people knew who he was. there in front of him was a man suffering from an abnormal swelling of his body. And Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not, but they remained what? Silent couldn't say anything, otherwise, it was going to detract from their whole message and their gripe with Jesus. So they didn't say anything. They remained silent. So taking a hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. And he gave him a thought provoking question. If any of you if one of you has a child or an ox that falls into the well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out? And they're probably thinking in their heads? Well, yeah, I was gonna say another word, but there's kids here so.... of course, it's your child. It's an ox, it's gonna help you plow your land. They're both important. This man was important. He had abnormal swelling. But here we see that to Jesus, this man

was important. We see that Jesus is always continuously serving, and following through on his purpose in life to heal and save every one possible. So we see Jesus has compassion. Was life comfortable for this man? Absolutely not. Did they have the same medical care? The same level of medical care back then? No. And we look at this context, we see that how can you not help this guy and yet, it was a setup, it's a trap. Jesus lives with purpose. And he fulfilled it. He's not worried about what other people think, he was completely focused on helping this man.

Why is purpose important in life because it helps us to find meaning. If we had no purpose, we could easily be wandering to and fro. You can be a billionaire. Don't get me wrong, I'd love to spend a billion dollars. But if you have no purpose in life, just existing is not enough. Purpose helps us to propel forward. If your child or ox falls into a hole, absolutely, you will go and get it. Let's try to let's try to update this. If your dog falls in a hole, you're gonna go and get it. Right. All right. If we even look back to Luke chapter 4, verse 6, Jesus literally gets up. Just real quickly, I'll read this Luke 4:16. He went to Nazareth where he'd been brought up and on the Sabbath day, he went into the synagogue as was his custom. He worshiped regularly on the Sabbath. He stood up to read in the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him he unrolls in, this is what he says, The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Step one, proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed of free to proclaim the year of our Lord's favor. And then he rolled the scroll back up, gave it back down to the intended set. Then every eye all the eyes in the synagogue are fastened on just like he was in this dinner party. And you began by saying to them today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. Jesus says his mission statement back in chapter four, and he's fulfilling it here in Luke 14.

One of the questions that maybe some of us here, but many of you probably hear around you is, what's my purpose? Do I make a difference in my life? And I think there are many who are wondering, what's the point if I have no purpose of continuing purpose in life is key. We want to make sure that the life that we live has value it has meaning Amen? Am I making a difference in people's lives? There has to be more than just making money waking up every day going to the same

job completing the same tasks, putting up with the annoying petty, insecure boss. I'm not referencing anybody. I'm not. All my bosses have been awesome for the most part. I have to there was one guy I didn't get along with. I'm not saying hey, I didn't get along with. And this does not apply to my current boss. I love that guy. I'm saying that because he's could be watching.

Well, we live in a world where it can be very shallow, and men. And people are trying to find meaning and significance in life is what we're doing going to make an impact. As we continue on, Jesus gives us some instruction on how he wants us to live. Let's go to verse seven. When he noticed how the guests pick the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable. You ever know what a Debbie Downer is? You ever watched SNL the Debbie the Debbie Downer skit. After Jesus says this, it almost feels like he's the Debbie Downer. But he speaks truth. When he noticed how the guests pick the places that the honor places of honor around the table, he told him this parable, when somebody invites you to a wedding feast don't take the place of honor for the person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will have to come and say, give this person your seat. This is not your seat. You have to work get up, how are you feeling humiliated. You'll have to take the least important place. Well, when you're invited, take the lowest place so that when your host comes He will say to you, friend, move up to a better place. And then you're going to be honored in the presence of all of the guests. For all of those who exalt themselves will be what humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted. This is a common theme throughout all four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, essentially, don't be first because the first will be last. And the last will be first. Always lead with humility. Now I've never been to a party where there was specific assigned seating you know, where you have all the important people either in the middle or on the side and you have the head honcho. At the end, I've never been to that. I've just always sat around people that hopefully I can have a good conversation, or I like, make it a pleasant evening. But you see people who are maybe trying to game the system, and they're wanting to make sure that they get the best seat maybe they have a project that they want to share and hopefully get funding for it. Or the same old story. I have a CD, I want you to listen to it. I want to be a rock star or a pop star right. And yet all many people are fed by their ego perhaps by singing by the host. I can maybe have some importance. I tried to

have influence and yet they're failing miserably. Jesus specifically give some life advice to avoid you some future awkward situations. humility. Humility is a characteristic of Jesus followers. If you have pride, just wait. You're gonna fall down. Amen. We live by either by the Lord or by your own foolish pride. You're going to be humbled and having egg all over your face, not a pleasant experience. When you're wrong, you think you're smart, you're invincible, and then you'll be humbled. And then you'll learn whether by education of life or somebody else. But the struggle struggling will also humble you.

You know, there's a story. We all know his story. tragic story. Chadwick Boseman. You have no idea who that is. He played the character of the Black Panther in the marvel marvel universe. Wonderful man. Young Life at his fingertips Yeah, most of us woke up one day finding out that he had passed away. How? Why? what? He was sick. But that did not stop him from achieving his dreams or wanting to make an impact. Death can be shocking. But yeah, Chadwick he wanted to make sure that he could leave his mark. And he did so humbly. He never told anybody except the closest circle. He acted through 21 bridges, the Avengers series, Black Panther, Marshall, all the while going through stage three colon cancer treatment. He knew what trials were like. And he shared if you want to have a better idea, there's a commencement address that he gave at Howard University in 2018. Go ahead and check that out when you have a chance. Yet, even though he was sick, he wasn't feeling good. Chadwick wanted to make a difference in his life. He wanted to make sure that others would have opportunities he himself gave others opportunity. And if I'm not mistaken, it was Denzel Washington, who helped Chadwick through school to become an actor. Kindness goes way further than we could ever imagine.

Jeremiah, I know the plans I have for you plans to prosper you in the heart not to harm you, plans to give you a hope, and a future. You want to find purpose, more than a job and a career, what is your ultimate purpose in life, to make as much money in the world or to make a difference in people's life? Helping others to see the gift that God has given you. He writes, When God has something for you, it doesn't matter who stands against and God will move someone that's holding you back away from the door and put someone there who will open it for you. It's meant for you. I don't know what your future is. But if you're willing to take the harder way, the more complicated way, the one with more failures first and

successes, the one that is ultimately proven to make, to have more meaning, more victory, more glory, you will not regret. Chadwick led by example. He was humble, but he was undeterred in his purpose.

Later, we find that Jesus, scene three, in this chapter, Jesus shares a story of a certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. And at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who'd been invited, come for everything is now ready. But they all like began to make excuses. The first one, I just bought a field, I must go and see it, please excuse me. The second guy said, I've just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please, excuse me. The third one has the best one. I just got married. I can't come. Alright. Some of you are still thinking about that. Now, in defense of the master, does he the servants, he reports to his master, how does the master take this news? He's angry and upset. Now, obviously, he'd sent the invitations. engagements to marriage took a long time, sometimes they would know a year in advance. This wasn't something like hey, here's an invitation come on over. This was in the planning for months. All of a sudden, maybe they'd already turned in their RSVP. But then oh, by the way, I can't make it today. I've already bought a field. That guy should have known what kind of field he was gonna buy beforehand, right? So unless you have Google Maps, which he didn't have back then bad excuse. Second guy, are you gonna buy a Ferrari sight unseen? Maybe if you have a billion dollars, but if you have a million dollars, that's a different story. You're gonna want to go and check that play that that puppy out, right? And then the third one is I just got married. The master is upset. How? Why? So he says, Go out quickly into the streets in the alleys of the town and the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame. Now, if you're the master, he's wanting everybody to come out to this day to bring the outsiders in. And by the way, the outsiders are not people who've never heard of the gospel. There's some who've been here and they've left the church. We want them to come back, right? Bring them back, go out quickly into the streets of the alleys and bring the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. And here we see that the servant says okay, well, there's still some more room The masters that go out into the roads, the country lanes, compel them to come in so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of these who are invited will get a taste of my banquet. And we see the Father, we see God saying go out everywhere possible.

We were talking about this earlier, and Sabbath School. Jesus wants us to go out into all of the world, not just down to Bellflower not just down to Ontario, but the world that they may hear and receive an invitation to the great banquet that's going to take place we find them revelation 19, Jesus is wanting everyone to receive an invitation, including the outsiders. And so Jesus is inviting you, us we need to be a disciple and share the gospel with others. And inviting someone requires that we make friendships with others getting to know people, when you're invited to a party or some type of gathering, right? It's usually at an invitation by someone you know, are familiar with or trust. What tools do you have in your toolbox to meet and share with others?

Some of you are wondering why is there a guitar here? Is he going to sing? Is he gonna play? I'm not going to do either that. I will say though, this is my number one. Technically, it's not my number one. It's my dad's. This is the guitar that I literally learned how to start with. This is the first guitar that I played. And you know what? I'm not gonna say it's a piece of junk because it's not. But over time, my dad bought this 40-50 years ago, right? Back in the 70s. 60s, I stand corrected. 70s Okay. So Yamaha GF65A. I wanted to play music because eventually it was the voice. It was a voice, music. You're able to express emotions, feelings, thoughts, through music, whether it's playing other people's music, or playing a ridiculously classical, classical, hard classical piece. All of my emotions went into this instrument. Now my parents graciously over the years, recognized that I had some amount of talent. And they bought me two other guitars and I hold those guitars, sentimentality, and they're great. They sound awesome. I bought other guitars, I have curated a collection and they all have a different purpose. But this one, sentimentally I can't go to my parents house without picking this guitar up. Because the first couple of years to first year and a half, two years, I learned how to play everything on this, from the Eagles to Hootie and the Blowfish to I can't even remember the bands that I love back when the 90s anything, even the 90s grunge trying to play grunge on a classically nylon, string acoustic is lame. I wanted a Les Paul, but I didn't have money to afford a Les Paul. But what it was was a foundation and a start. And I poured my heart into this. And as I started to play music beyond classical music, I learned how to play worship music. I use this instrument to learn how to play music. So I could later on to be able to perform at summer camp. But I also took this instrument, actually not this instrument, the

next instrument, I would go to coffee shops. And I would play it Thursday night open-mic night. And it was a tool that I was able to meet people from all over I met somebody at the school who was in the light who worked in the library, who I just mentioned. Yeah, sometimes I play some classical music and she literally came down and watched me play classical music. Really nice, wonderful woman. You don't know what tools you're going to have at home, or what God's gonna bless you with, but something so as insignificant as a small old guitar. really honestly, part of my identity is rooted in this guitar. I'll be honest with you. I played trying to play rock and roll on grunge on a nylon acoustic was lame. But it got me started until finally I could afford an Epiphone Les Paul, not a Gibson Les Paul, or a Fender Telecaster or a Taylor guitar. There are so many hard fought battles that I had with this guitar, just to be able to learn how to play but in doing so, it was humbling to play this And it wasn't cool. But now that I look back, I have a lot of love for this guitar. It's painted over, it's chipped, it's cracked. It's got it's been ripped off. And even though it's old, I have so many fond humbling memories, and life, you're going to carry through, you're going to learn along the way, you're going to have challenges. But as you find your purpose, as you move forward with your purpose in life, sharing Jesus, having a family, whatever it may be, you'll be humbled, but lead with humility, you're going to grow, and you're going to be better equipped. As the challenges get bigger, as God asks more of you. That's a scary thought. Because once you think, Oh, I've learned this talent, I know I'm comfortable. Guess what God does? I'm going to ask a little bit more of you. By God's grace, that's a good thing. So with this guitar, and several other guitars, I was able to develop authentic relationships. But these relationships take time they take investment. But what was Jesus doing? He was creating with purpose disciples, to be able to make more disciples later, three years he invested in Peter, James, John, all of those other guys. So take time, and not have oh, hey, what's up? How are you? You want to be able to know people, you want to know their joys, you want to know the struggles? You want to be that person that when they're at the hospital wondering if their spouse is going to make it? Can you please pray with me? You want authentic relationships with your neighbors? Because when stuff happens, like it's happening around the world, who are you going to rely on your neighbors? To go deeper?

Why is all this important? I'm sorry, I'm gonna go a few minutes over overtime. The world that we live in, are we isn't getting better? How many of you last week felt like you just got kicked in the stomach last week? As horrible as everything is going on in the Middle East? Did you know that there was a huge earthquake in Afghanistan? That killed several 1000? Several I'm sorry, several 1000 people? Do you know that there's there was flooding in Libya? Now they're saying over 10,000 people have died? 10,000, 4000, 2000, 3000, I'm just throwing out numbers. But these are the people who have died in separate incidents 30 years ago? 1993. If you were to hear these kinds of numbers, how would you have responded to that? Like you've been kicked in the stomach? Nowadays, it's just news. And that's what bothers me as a culture and especially as a person I really had to ask myself I know and I know I'm perceiving this, but i My heart although I feel bad. It's like I feel like I should be experiencing more or is that just me? Okay, there's, there's one other person? No, we, if God because all of these 1000s of people are Guess what? They're God's children. They're our brothers and sisters in Christ. Or not in Christ. They're still our brothers and sisters, because we all come from God. Amen. And we should still treat them whether brother and sister in Christ or not. They are our brother and sister. Amen. I hope and pray that as you find purpose in life, but also purpose with God, that will go forth. And we will lead with love, just as Jesus did. What's the greatest commandment Love God with everything right? and love your neighbor as yourself. And as we journey together over the next five weeks, may our purpose be? May our purpose be? To go? Love God with everything. love our neighbor as ourself. Lead with kindness and sincerity. And may our purpose be to share Jesus with others and if we have to use words. So, Jesus purpose is to heal and save. We're humbly called to minister in disciple around the world.

Question. Who are the outsiders in your life? Who are the people who do not know Jesus or maybe You have abandoned Jesus and will hold you back from sharing Jesus with them.

question or challenge, go and create a relationship with someone who's an outsider. Now with the purpose while yes, you want to have the purpose of being able to share Jesus with others, but create a relationship, to have a great

relationship. And then when they're ready, share Jesus with them. Amen. Amen. That's your challenge. May God be with you.

Let's briefly pray and then Bill is going to come on up. God, I pray that as we challenge ourselves, Lord, to develop relationships with others, to love you to love others well, leading guidance. It's a challenging world. It's it's a hard, difficult, challenging world. Help us Lord to be the light the salt and help us through you God because it's not about us, through you. Help us to bring awareness that others may find you and they may find hope and redemption. In Jesus name. everybody said, Amen.

Grace and peace, everybody.