

Chazown Sermon Series Part Four – Living the Dream

Acts 20:22-24

²²"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Sermon Series Summary

What if there was a different way to live your life? What if you knew the purpose of your life, what you were made for? What if you knew the great calling that you have upon your life? Would you live your life differently? Every person looks for a great purpose for their life yet few find and live out their true calling. Living out your calling gives you purpose, courage, endurance, and strength to make it through some of life's toughest battles that you will ever face. God created you and designed for His great purpose. This is the greatest adventure that you will ever have. Are you ready to find your purpose and live out your calling, if so then join us for this sermon series as we find our calling and live life on purpose!

Big Idea – God Cares About the Small Stuff... It is Here Where You Live Out Your Calling

- Imagine that the extent of your life is made up of spokes of a bicycle wheel. All of these spokes on this wheel are needed in order for the integrity of the wheel to be without compromise. The spokes must be attached and tightened for the wheel to work right. If even one of the spokes fails then the whole wheel stops working. This is a perfect parallel for your life. God cares about the small stuff that seems so insignificant at the time because when we get the small stuff right then we get the big stuff right.

Five Elements (Spokes) of a Healthy Calling

The Spokes of a Wheel

- I have seen this example time and again. I have walked with good friends in their devotional life and have seen them spend extensive amounts of time with God in prayer and in His Word. I have also seen in their lives the slow withdrawal from God's Word and prayer which ended up placing a huge strain on their spiritual life, their relationships with others, and ultimately their marriage. Why did this happen? Because they had a calling to do something tremendous for God and when they left His presence and that spoke failed then the integrity of the wheel was not intact and the rest of their life fell apart. *Can you relate?*

Element #1 – Your Relationship With God Counts

- **Matthew 22:37-39** – Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- **Key Point** – You were created for a purpose and on purpose. You were not accident. We read in Genesis that each one of was created in the very image of God. In the book of Jeremiah God begins by reminding the prophet that He knew Him even before He was in His mother's womb and He called Him and set Him apart even before He gave Him life. Why does your relationship with God matter? It is because it is the only thing that matters when you look at life from an eternal perspective. Jesus states in Revelation 3:15-16 to the church of Laodicea that the Christians fall in three categories: Hot, Cold, & Lukewarm. The church gets a stinging rebuke for not being either hot or cold but lukewarm. Your relationship to God

matters to God. James 4:8 cries out these words: *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Element #2 – Your Relationship With Others Matters

- **Matthew 22:37-39** – Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- **Key Point** – You were not only created to have a relationship with God but you were also created to translate that relationship into action, spreading the message of salvation, love, hope, and faithfulness to others. Every one of us has different types of relationships. We have friends, family members, co-workers, relationships to cherish, some to nourish, some are relationships that are like iron sharpening iron and some are relationships that are severing your connection with God. Your relationship with others does matter because it does impact your relationship with God.

Element #3 – Your View of Money Matters

- **Haggai 1:6** – “You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”
- **Key Point** – We do not like to admit the third element but it is a crucial element which should not be overlooked. God never gives us something that we cannot handle and that includes money. God gives us money and possessions for a specific reason: To Bring Him Glory as We Live Out Our Calling! If you are living paycheck to paycheck and are in a tremendous amount of debt then you will never be able to live out the great calling God has for your life. It may take time to crawl out of the whole you may be in but it is essential for success in living out God’s calling for your life.

Element #4 – Health & Fitness: Property of God

- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
- **Key Point** – The fourth element is summed up in this phrase: Your body is the temple of the Lord. God has not only given you money and possessions to live out your calling but He has also given you your very life. Our very lives are truly the property of God and He has a great plan for our lives but are we taking care of our lives in such a way that we will live to the fullest extent that we can on this earth, carrying out the calling for the length of time God has intended us to live.

Element #5 – Work: Meaning in the Mundane

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- **Key Point** – The final element comes down to this statement: God has planted you right where you are at so that you could bloom right where you are. God has asked us to live out our calling at all times of our lives whether at home or at work. When we are working for God and His glory then work has purpose and meaning because we are no longer working for our boss or a business but God alone.

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the small steps you can take to begin living out your calling?
- How are you using gifts and talents for God?

Memory Verse

Acts 20:24 – However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Sermon Challenge

Live the Dream – What is your calling and how are you using it for God? After going through this Chazown journey together make a plan to take the next step. Get involved in a ministry or a home fellowship and begin living out your calling.

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