

## Living a Life of Purpose

God has a purpose for your life. **Ephesians 1:4**    **Ephesians 2:10**

Until we discover his purpose – and follow through – there will always be a void in our soul.

When we do discover his purpose – and follow through – there will be fullness and joy!

**Romans 8:29, 30**

Nehemiah illustrates this better than anyone else.

In 587 B.C., the Babylonians invaded and destroyed the city of Jerusalem.

The temple was destroyed. Some eighty years later, the Jews had returned to Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was about to discover and live out God's purposes for his life.

The question before us this morning is **How can I develop a life of purpose?**

Nehemiah teaches us **three actions** that we must take:

### I. CULTIVATE A CONCERN

A life of purpose always begins with a concern that God has given.

Purposeful people cultivate that concern.

**Nehemiah 1:1-4**

Nehemiah's concern over Jerusalem consumed him.

He couldn't get it out of his mind. He mourned and fasted and prayed for days.

God's purpose for you will always begin as a God-given concern.

You won't be able to let them go because they won't let you go.

Things to Note:

A. NOT EVERYONE WILL SHARE YOUR CONCERN.

Has God given you a concern,

but you haven't cultivated it because nobody else seems to share that concern?

Stop waiting for other people!

It's up to you to begin to cultivate and to pray about that concern.

B. NOT EVERYONE WHO HAS A CONCERN WILL DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

Talking and doing are two different things.

Even if others are concerned, they don't always act.

C. GOD OFTEN GIVES A CONCERN BEFORE HE GIVES A SOLUTION.

Many Christians have God-given concerns but haven't done anything about it.

Because they can't see themselves as the solution to the problem.

One thing I know for sure is that God has given every person here a concern.

Your job is to cultivate that concern. Pray about it. Fast over it. Bring it before God.

### II. CENTER ON THE ETERNAL

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**    God-given concerns always focus on the eternal.

A life of purpose always centers on making an eternal contribution.

**Nehemiah 1:8-10**

Why was Nehemiah concerned about the broken-down walls?

His concern was about God's people taking their rightful place in God's plan.

There's only one thing that will last into eternity are people.

Nothing else matters.

**John 15:4**    The best way to build a life of purpose is to build character.

The more I'm like Jesus, the more God can use me.

### III. CONCENTRATE YOUR ENERGY

Everyday opportunities that can distract us from what God has called us to do have a way of coming up.

Which would you like as your epitaph? "*He made his car payments*"?

Or

*"He served God's purpose in his own generation"*

Let's pray.