

# Your Purpose

Week 13 · Matthew 28:19-20 · Source week: 16

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*A closing charge on disciple-making, mentoring, harvest, and living out purpose.*

## Summary

### **M2 Week 16: Your Purpose**

#### **Summary**

In Week 1, we established that there is an attack on manhood, masculinity and especially the called Spiritual Leader of the home--the husband and father. We established that without godly men, the world looks much different. The Incarceration rates, poverty rates, teenage pregnancy rates, high school drop-out rates..., and several other factors are much higher when children are fatherless. Men are important and the enemy is trying to neutralize our influence.

In Week 2, we discovered that our design reveals destiny. We are made in God's image, which means we have an eternal makeup, designed for a purpose with unique talents and gifts. We also discovered that like God, we have a strong desire to receive healthy honor. Our yearning for honor can lead us to unhealthy places if we aren't careful.

In Weeks 3 &4, we learned about our SHAPE, which is our Spiritual Gifts, our Heart, our Abilities, our Personality type and our Experiences. We learned that God will give us a Heart for a certain people or need. That is the beginning of discovering our Purpose.

In Week 5, we discovered that we are designed to live in our Zeitgeist, which is the pervasive culture and belief systems of the day. The culture and belief of our world is contrary to the Word of God. It places man at the center of things and reaches outward rather than placing God at the head. Our current culture, called Postmodernism tells us that we can create our own truth, and that truth is relative. We reject the culture of the day and believe what the Word of God says about our purpose and about who God is.

In Week 6, we learned that we must grieve for the consequences of our sin, which is death. We must forgive in order to be forgiven and in order to love our fellow man, we must receive the love that God has lavished upon us. That love is unconditional, it's who God is and there's nothing we can do to earn it and there's nothing we can do to lose it. We must receive love in order to give it.

In Week 7, we discovered that our purpose is tied to our responsibility as the Royal Priesthood of our homes. We are both royal, grafted into God's family as Sons, and we are also Priests, who are responsible for the spiritual development, guidance, and vision casting of our homes. Embracing our responsibility helps us achieve our purpose. Our first calling is to our home.

In Week 8, we try to remove the lens of our earthly father, as we view our heavenly Father. Our earthly fathers are human and made mistakes. We are to forgive them and honor them. We wouldn't want to be remembered or held accountable for our worst moments, nor should we do that to our earthly fathers. No matter what, God says to honor our father and mothers. So, we honor our fathers, so that we can honor our Heavenly Father. We view God as who He is: Holy, Awesome, Loving, Fierce, Jealous, Benevolent, Merciful, Mighty, Capable, Willing, Unrivaled, and so much more. Our view of God will determine the depth of our faith and how effective we are at accomplishing our purpose.

In Week 9, we learned that our Achilles Heel, which is the thing that can readily destroy us is our lusts of the flesh. We must run from such temptation. We must give our temptations to God and trust Him to take them from us. We have a choice in every situation and our job isn't to fight, our job is to flee! He will do the rest.

In Week 10, we discovered that God desires to bless us, but we have the duty to trust Him with our finances. Malachi 3 says that we should tithe and Jesus reaffirmed that by saying, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." This implies that God very much is owed something, which is likely the tithe. A tithe is a tenth. When we trust God with the first fruits of our finances, then our sustenance is His responsibility, and we can rest in His abundant mercy to provide for us.

In Week 11, we discussed the last of the three primary issues that often plague men: our view of authority. God has asked us to honor the authority over our lives because He placed it there. No matter your view of your government, boss or authority, we honor those that God has placed over us--even those that aren't just. The only time we break away from our authority is when our authority asks us to do something that is contrary to His Word. We must humble ourselves in order to be raised up by God. We trust that He will do just that in His timing.

In Week 12, we learned that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an it or an entity and that He desires a friendship with us. He loves us, lives within us and gives us help, instruction, and power. The Holy Spirit is essential to us living out our purpose. You can ask for and receive more of the Holy Spirit if you are willing, and if you are willing, God is faithful to give.

In Weeks 13 & 14, we discovered the power of testimony. The Bible says that we overcame them by the Blood of the Lamb--which is Jesus, and the power of our testimony. We should be about the business of telling others the good news of what God has done in our lives. When we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we were given an assignment. That assignment is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Our testimony is powerful and effective. We shouldn't be shy in sharing it.

In Week 15, we discovered what Spiritual Warfare is, which is taking the fight to the enemy. We have power to defeat the enemy through prayer, worship, fasting and the Word of God. These are the tools with which we fight our enemy, and they are effective.

## Your Purpose

If we are disciples of Jesus, then our lives should look like Jesus's life looked. Jesus had 12 disciples. In other words, Jesus had 12 men that he poured His life into. He taught them the Word. He explained the Word to them. He answered their questions, He calmed their fears and their storms. He taught them how to go out and do the things that He did. He was faithful to them, patient with them and loved them. When Peter denied Him, He restored Him. Jesus was a good steward of 12 men.

### Who are your disciples?

How do we know that we should do the same: Jesus commanded us so in Matthew 28:19. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## How Do We Make Disciples?

Remember that your SHAPE will help determine what that looks like. Your Spiritual Gifts, your Heart, your Abilities, your Personality, your Experiences will help determine who you are called to make Disciples.

### Disciple Makers...

Seek Disciples. In every situation, Jesus saw Peter and James in a boat and asked them, "Follow me." (Matthew 4:18-32, Luke 5:1-11).

No Matter Where They Are. Jesus asked Matthew, a tax collector to follow Him. A Jewish tax collector was an outcast, unable to attend the temple of the Lord. Though Matthew might have had money, he was not accepted by his own society. It's likely that even his own parents had nothing to do with him. (Matthew 9:9-13)

Even After Betrayal. Making disciples isn't easy. When Jesus went to the cross, only one disciple remained faithful--John. The rest abandoned Him for fear of persecution or the cross itself. Yet, after the resurrection, Jesus sought them out to remind them of their mission.

Keep Eternity in Mind. The Kingdom the disciples were looking for looked much different than the one Jesus was trying to establish. Their mindset was that of an earthly King, but earthly kingdoms are only shadows of what God is going to do. His Kingdom is eternal. Our job isn't to judge those we disciple. Our job is to love them and let the Holy Spirit do His job. I heard an old pastor say, "My job is to catch the fish, it's His job to clean them."

Run their own Race. We aren't called to run someone else's race. You are called to do what God has asked you to do. When you operate in your giftings, it's beautiful because no one can do the job that you've been made to do. No one. You're the only one. Without you, there would be a hole in eternity. God knew exactly what He was doing when He made you. There are other parts of the body of Christ and each has their own function. Do what God has called you to do and be satisfied in it. The pay is the same. Our eternal reward is the same as the others who put their hands to the plow and are determined to fulfill their Kingdom purpose. It's the only purpose that matters. When you try to operate outside of your gifts, you'll only get frustrated.

Stay Sharp. Jesus often went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He sought alone time with God because He knew that was His source of strength. Today, over 1700 US pastors are leaving their posts every month. They're walking away from the ministry. God has asked you to be faithful. He even says that when we get to Heaven, we will be greeted with one greeting, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21) God will reward you for your faithfulness. There are no rock stars in the Kingdom. There are only faithful servants of our King.

Are Obedient. Your witness is crucial as you make disciples. We're not perfect; we're all on a journey, but that road narrows when you accept the duty of disciple-making. James 3:1 says, "Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." Don't let this Scripture fool you--we're all called to teach. Every parent teaches his children. We all teach, so we should all be on our guard. We are all held to a higher standard because we are the salt and light of the world. The world is watching. We must remain faithful and diligent in our Christian walk, putting aside the things of this world for the better things, for eternal things, which we cannot see, but take hold of with fervor.

## The Harvest

God's purpose is to advance His Kingdom and His Kingdom is people. It is His will that none should perish. (2 Peter 3:9) Matthew 9:36-38 says, "When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest."

The purpose of your life as a disciple of Jesus is to join in the work of the harvest. You don't have to go to a foreign country to find the harvest, it's not far outside of your front door. There are so many people that are hurting, broken, and need the healing salve that only Jesus offers for their broken souls. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can have a relationship with God without accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. (John 14:6) You don't have the cure for their problems, but you know the One who does. We can't walk past the hurting and broken anymore without pointing them to the Great Physician. That's your job and for most of us, it happens one relationship at a time.

## Who Do You Know?

Make a list of people that you know are far from God or have even confided with you that they're going through a trial. Pray for them and pray that God gives you the wisdom and knowledge to help them. Become a worker of the harvest by inviting them into your circle. Invite them to coffee or lunch. Ask them how they're really doing. Tell them a little about what God has done for you. Ask them how you can pray for them.

**Pray for opportunity**

**Invite them into your circle**

**Tell what God has done for you**

**Pray with them.**

## Take a Mentor

If you're not comfortable sharing your story, invite a mentor to go with you to meet with your friend in need. Introduce your friend and allow them to share their testimony. Once you see it practiced a few times, you'll be ready to do it on your own.

## Mentor Model

**Model how it's done**

**Encourage**

**Go with them and observe**

**Coach the things that need to be improved**

**Repeat as often as needed.**

## **Closing Charge**

Thank you for completing the Millennium Men Curriculum. My prayer is that it has encouraged you to live a life with eternal purpose. My hope is that this curriculum has encouraged you to live as Christ lived--making disciples of Him. I believe that your life will be full when you fully embrace your purpose of disciple-making. God needs you to get into the game. God made you to be "more than a conqueror"! He loves you.

I also pray that you would consider joining our movement. Millennium Men is more than a curriculum, it's a Movement of Men that have eternity in mind. We know that God has made us for such a time as this! (Esther 4:14) God has called you to Disciple-Making. We can't do it alone. We need each other. If we are going to change our world, forge a course of history that has eternal impacts, we need to band together and live our lives with purpose, for His purpose, and on purpose. No one gets to their destination without charting their course.

### **Here is the vision of Millennium Men:**

We purposefully create three circles of engagement for men:

Outer Circle Events--Where men can come together to fellowship, break bread and enjoy one another under the umbrella of building Kingdom relationships.

Middle Circle Forums--These are the Millennium Men Bible Studies just like the one you've just completed. We need to be equipped and trained to fight in battle. Make no mistake, what we are doing is battle and it takes real men to engage.

Inner Circle Outreach--Where men serve others through varying acts of service such as: evangelism, teaching, equipping, prison ministry, helping the poor, widows and orphans, and those in need.

**Join our Movement: [M2Disciples.com](http://M2Disciples.com)**