

RENEWED PURPOSE

John 21:1-19

- **Many Mothers and Fathers have expressed concern because their children seemingly lack positive or godly purposes for their lives.**
- ***When have I felt like I had little or no purpose in life?***
- **Failure is one thing that can rob us of purpose and passion.**
- **Simon Peter had failed miserably because he had allowed pride, fear and isolation to cause him to lose his focus and purpose (Matthew 26:31-75).**
- An Angel at the Empty Tomb- *"Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee."* (Mark 16:7)
- **The Lord is always willing to forgive our failures, but often we won't forgive ourselves, and wind up living passionless, purposeless lives (John 21:1-6).**
- ***What can we do to find renewed purpose in our lives?***

Finding Purpose For Our Lives Requires:

DETERMINING NOT TO <u>GIVE</u> <u>UP</u>

- *"Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. . . . Several of the disciples were there - Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' 'We'll come, too,' they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night."* (John 21:1-3)
- **When many people experience failure, their tendency is to return to old habits and lifestyles, but that leads to futility, emptiness and further defeat.**
- Jesus - *"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come to bring you a full and satisfying life."* (John 10:10)

Finding Purpose For Our Lives Requires:

DOING WHAT THE LORD <u>INSTRUCTS</u> US TO DO

- *"At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who He was. He called out, 'Fellows, have you caught any fish?' 'No,' they replied. Then he said, 'Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!' So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it."* (John 21:4-6)
- **Many people experience failures because they're "fishing on the wrong side of the boat" (living outside of the Lord's will for their lives).**
- *"Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him, and He will help you."* (Psalm 37:3-5)
- **The Lord knows what's best for us, and if we will listen to and obey His voice we will experience His best in our lives.**

Finding Purpose For Our Lives Requires:

DEPENDING UPON THE LORD'S <u>PROVISION</u>

- *"Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It's the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic..., jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them - fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread."* (John 21:7-9)
- **It is the Lord's intent to provide for our physical, emotional, financial, relational, vocational and spiritual needs.**
- **At Celebration we have Life Groups, Ministries, Discipleship Classes, Worship Services, etc to help us grow stronger in every realm of our lives.**
- *"My God will supply all your needs..."* (Philippians 4:19)
- **Many people are settling for what the world provides rather than what the Lord wants to provide, and that keeps us off purpose in our lives.**

Finding Purpose For Our Lives Requires:

DEVELOPING THE RIGHT <u>PRIORITIES</u>

- *After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' Peter replied, 'You know I love You.' 'Then feed My lambs,' Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: 'Simon son of John, do you love Me?' 'Yes, Lord,' Peter said, 'You know I love You.' 'Then take care of My sheep,' Jesus said. A third time He asked him, 'Simon son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said,*

'Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You.' Jesus said, 'Then feed my sheep.'" (John 21:15-17)

- **The Lord has called us to *Love Him More Than Anyone Or Anything.***
    - Jesus - *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."* (Mark 12:30)
    - **We show our love for Jesus by living for Him and serving Him.**
- **The Lord has called us to *Love Others More Than We Love Ourselves.***
    - Jesus - *"The second (commandment) is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* (Mark 12:31)
    - **We demonstrate our love for others by caring for others and by leading them to grow closer to the Lord in their lives.**
- **When we are focused on loving the Lord and loving others we will find and fulfill God's purposes for our lives.**

Finding Purpose For Our Lives Requires:

DYING TO SELFISH <u>FOCUSES</u>

- *"'I (Jesus) tell you the truth; when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go."Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, 'Follow Me.'"* (John 21:18-19)
- **To live out the Lord's purposes for our lives we're going to have to become selfless instead of self-focused.**
- Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me."* (Luke 9:23)
- Peter - *"You must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires."* (1 Peter 1:14)

- **Peter went from being a failure to a "force" for God when he rediscovered and began to live out the Lord's purposes for his life (Acts 1-11).**
- *"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation..."* (1 Peter 1:3)
- ***What does the Lord want to do in and through my life in the days ahead?***