

"SHINE"

On Location, Part 3

January 17th, 2010

There is a transition which occurs in which we experiment with life to figure out what works for us, i.e. "How do I get or be happy?"

One thing we don't think much about in our early adult years is the issue of purpose

We begin to deal with purpose when momentum runs out and life starts looking the same, then we ask "why?" "Why am I here? What's the purpose of life?"

Many bump into the purpose question but they don't really deal with it, and then they make some real bad decisions

Ultimately you can't avoid the "why" question because God put that question in you
Genesis 1:27 (NIV) "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

We run into somebody who seems to have life and purpose figured out – they seem content

Purpose centers us & keeps us from running off into all kinds of unhealthy extremes

Matthew 5:14 (NIV) "You are the light of the world."

God wants to work through you so the world knows who the true God is & what He is up to

Matthew 5:14 (NAS) "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

"set" means strategically - you are like a city that is strategically placed/built on a hill

Matthew 5:15 (NIV) "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

A light is strategically placed in a house so everyone is impacted by a well placed lamp

Matthew 5:16 (NIV) "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Jesus is talking about something external, not internal

This is not something you believe; this is about something you do, something you participate in

God says I want you to embrace the fact that your purpose is to be a light

God says I want you to go out and do things and do them in such a way that people connect the dots and get a glimpse of the kind of God you worship

Two Unavoidable Implications

1. According to Jesus you have been strategically put in your place for a purpose

Virtually every person God has used didn't feel he or she was strategically placed

Those whose lives you touch feel it was a divinely set-up appointment

You are the light in your location

2. What can I do in my location that helps people connect the dots between who I am and who I believe in?

One reason many have resisted Christianity is because the Christians around them never asked and lived out the "why" question

You have been strategically placed at your location to draw people's attention toward your Father in heaven – that's your purpose

Are you willing to accept your role of the light of your location?

Will you ask God, "If I've been strategically placed, what kind of works or deeds could I do to draw people's attention to my Father in heaven?"

You are here today because someone was the light of your location, and now you have the opportunity and the responsibility to do the same thing for others

If you "hide your light," you'll always live with a gnawing sense of discontentment

Failure to "shine" will cause you to live with the sense of purposelessness because you've not engaged in the purpose to which you have been created

My Next Step Today Is:

- God, I accept my role of the light on my location
- God, show me what deeds or works I can do to draw people's attention to You at my location
- I want to be in a small group but need help finding the right one for me.
- I will memorize Matthew 5:14