



LIFE ON PURPOSE

MARK 1:35-39; JOHN 15:16; LUKE 5:1-11

Principle: Jesus gives us a new identity and purpose we must personalize, internalize and daily prize.

His Story is Life on Purpose

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1:35-39)

His Word Produces Thousands of Pictures

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” (John 15:16)

His Question: Do you trust me?

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. (Luke 5:4-6)

The “me” question:

The “us” question:

“Many there are who count how long it is since their conversion; and yet full slender oftentimes is the fruit of amendment in their lives.”
~ Thomas A' Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

Going Deeper

(For individuals or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Mark 1:35-39. Why might it be significant that Jesus' picture of life on purpose includes both personal time connecting with God and ministry time serving others?
2. Choose one of the following Bible Characters: Ananias (not Sapphira's husband), Barnabas, Saul/Paul, Philip, Timothy. Look through the passages and stories in which you find them. What did purpose look like in their lives?
3. Which question are you asking right now: “Do you love me, God?” or “Do I trust you, God?” How can John 15:16 help you rest in an answer?
4. Spiritual Exercise: Read Luke 5:4-6. Jesus asks Peter to “set out into deep water...” Peter says, “But at your word I will...” Spend time this week listening for Jesus' call to you, personally, practically. Where is your deep water? Then, at His word, set out into it with Him.