

# EASTER PEOPLE HAVE A PURPOSE

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How many of you know what your purpose is in life?

Several years ago a book hit the book stores entitled, “The Purpose-Driven Life” written by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church. Prior to that book he had written a book entitled “The Purpose-Driven Church.” In these two books Pastor Warren laid out five basic principles or purpose for the church and for life.

Prior to Rick Warren’s books, there was a book entitled, “The Prayer of Jabez.” Within that little book was a purpose revealed that was based on Jabez’s prayer to expand his territory.

Peter Drucker wrote several books about the principles of management and leadership. A quote from one of his books is, “Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.” In a sense, Drucker was giving a purpose statement to a person’s life.

Where do you get your purpose statement? What is your purpose in life?

Today, I want to challenge you to know and have a purpose statement that is meaningful, significant, and that glorifies God.

Let us pray. Heavenly father, we come before You this morning to meditate on Your Word. I pray for an outpouring of Your Spirit to open our hearts and heart to listen and receive Your message today. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Point One: A Meaningful Purpose**

According to the first lesson for today from Acts 1:12-26, a very meaningful purpose for Matthias, the newly chosen disciple, was that he would be a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.

What we learn, for followers of Jesus, is to be a witness of the resurrection. Easter People live with the purpose to share the joy of the resurrection news. It is because of this good news that the world can have hope; not just any hope, but meaningful and significant hope. The resurrection assures all believers of life eternal. Without the resurrection of Jesus we would have no hope.

This hope never disappoints us. This hope is our comfort and assurance of life after death. Being a witness of this hope is what we are called to share with all people.

Easter People have a purpose that is meaningful. Our purpose is to be a witness of our Lord’s resurrection.

## **Point Two: A Significant Purpose**

Matthias was one of two candidates for filling the position of the disciples that was vacated by Judas’ death. He was chosen to be a significant aide to the other disciples in getting the message out to the world.

We have been chosen and set apart for a significant purpose – to continue to get the message out to the world. The message is Jesus Christ is risen. Death no longer controls our destiny. In the second lesson, 1 John 5:9-15, we read, “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” That is pretty significant! John went on to say, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. “

You have a significant purpose. Without the purpose of being a follower of Jesus, there is no life. Having this assurance, or as John calls it – confidence – we can ask anything according to God’s will and He will hear us. John wrote: “And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.”

A significant purpose for Easter People is knowing that we are loved by God and have the honor to be in His family through faith in Jesus and that we can ask, according to His will, and know that our requests are granted.

### **Point Three: A Purpose that Glorifies God**

The Gospel from John 17 is a portion of the prayer our Lord Jesus prayed before He was arrested, convicted, crucified, buried, and raised to life. In this prayer, Jesus requests His Father to not take His disciples out of the world, but to protect them from the evil one. He also prays for the Father to sanctify them in the truth, saying the God’s word is truth. As Jesus was sent into the world so Jesus sent out His disciples into the world.

Easter People have a purpose, a meaningful and significant purpose. The ultimate purpose, as meaningful and significant it is, shall always be to glorify God. Jesus shows us, and was, the ultimate purpose by glorifying God, His Father. Jesus was obedient, following His Father’s will. Jesus fulfilled all things to the glory of God. Jesus carried out His Father’s plan of salvation.

When Jesus ascended into heaven He charged His disciples to obey everything He commanded. What were those commands? To love one another as He loved us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all He had commanded.

We’ve heard the last two weeks that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. Apart from Him we can do nothing. If we remain in Him and He in us, we can produce fruit. It is this fruit that glorifies God. What is that fruit? Listen to the words from Galatians 5:

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control.*

Or from Colossians 3:

*As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Easter People have a purpose, a very meaningful and significant purpose that is to be lived out every day of our life to the glory of God. We cannot do this by our accord. We need power from on high. And God provides that power – the Holy Spirit.

Next Sunday we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. When the twelve disciples received the power from on high, the Holy Spirit, they new their purpose – to go into all the world and proclaim the wonderful and good news of the risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They knew what their purpose was and that it had meaning and it was significant because it was a purpose to glorify God.

Easter People of Bethany Lutheran, we have received the power from on high – the Holy Spirit. We are given the same purpose as the disciples: to go into the world and proclaim the risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a purpose that is meaningful and significant. When we fulfill this purpose, God will be glorified as more and more lost sinners will repent and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

So Bethany Lutheran Easter People, what is your purpose? (pause)

Our purpose is to share the love of Jesus and to witness of His resurrection.

Let the world know that Jesus is alive. He lives! Because He lives we have life everlasting. In Him is our hope and salvation. There is no other name under heaven whereby anyone can be saved except the name of Jesus. We have a purpose that is meaningful, that is significant, the glorifies God. Easter People, live your purpose! The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Amen.