

## **Fulfilling your God Given Purpose**

Ambition - Luke 2: 41 - 52

Today we are talking about fulfilling our purpose, but I don't want to focus on the word purpose. I want to focus on the word fulfill.

Fulfill - .to bring to completion or reality; achieve or realize; carry out (a task, duty, or role) as required, **pledged**, or expected

1. To fulfill demands action -

### **The demonization of the word...AMBITION**

**What is Ambition?** Ambition is the desire to do something meaningful, great, and worthwhile.

With this definition in mind...**How in the world could it be wrong for Christians to be ambitious?** I'm sure if we took the time to hear from every person here tonight, we would hear stories of all the meaningful, great and worthwhile things that we would like to accomplish.

### **A Matter of the Heart - Philippians 2:3-5**

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

\*Godly ambition seeks to serve and not be served\*

- **Selfish ambition focuses on you and your wants, Godly ambition focuses on God and fulfilling his purpose for your life.**
  - What can I get from this person, place, thing, or situation.
  - Galatians 5: 16-17 - Our desires and God's will always be against each other. We must be aware that the flesh (selfish ambition) is always in conflict with the Spirit's desires for us.
- **Selfish Ambition Focuses on What You Can Get, Godly Ambition Focuses on What You Can Give**

- To be first in the kingdom is to be a servant. Worldly ambition has no desire to serve, only to be served.

### **Two Powerful Examples From Jesus' Life - Luke 2:41-52**

**Focus Scripture -Luke 2:49** And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

#### **Characteristics of Christ-centered ambition**

- **Gives you Focus 2:45** - Jesus spent much time in the temple
- **Revealed over time (or lived out over time), different seasons** (Luke 2: 46-47- Jesus was listening and asking questions - Not teaching in the synagogue.. ***Have you ever reflected on your life and thought about the situations in your life that have brought you to where you are today?*** (Talk about Motivated Education).
- **It's your identity (Luke 2:49)**- True ambition comes from a deep understanding of your personal vision. Who are you?
- **Everyone isn't going to understand your mission - Luke 2:50** - Not only will they not understand it, you may be hated for it

#### **The closer you are, the deeper the temptation - Matthew 4: 8-10**

As impressive as the story of Jesus in the temple is, I'm more impressed by the temptation in the wilderness:

#### **Matthew 4: 8-10**

**8.** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"<sup>[e]</sup>

- 1. The closer we get to fulfilling our purpose, the more the temptation comes.**
  - a. Jesus is fasting - on the brink of starting something great!
  - b. He's tempted with food, pride, and status
  - c. Attacks are typically subtle, but Satan was very open with Jesus

#### **How Powerful is Your Purpose - Matthew 2:13-16**

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are some Biblical examples of ambitious men, and how did their ambition align with their faith?
2. In what ways can ambition be a form of stewardship of the talents and opportunities God has given? Ambition as stewardship.
3. How can a Christian man ensure that his ambition is aligned with God's will?
4. What role does ambition play in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?
5. How can a Christian man balance ambition with humility? - The gift vs. the Talent
6. How can ambition be used to serve others and advance God's kingdom?
7. What are the dangers of ungodly ambition, and how can a Christian guard against them?
8. What are some practical ways a Christian man can pursue ambition in his career while maintaining his spiritual integrity?
9. In what ways can ambition drive a Christian man to grow spiritually and develop a deeper relationship with God?
10. How can ambition contribute to a Christian man's ability to provide for his family and support his community?
11. How can a Christian man cultivate an ambition that prioritizes eternal values over worldly success?

As men, we need to be **AMBITIOUS!**