

# WELCOME TO THE PLANET

## Part 6: You Were Made for a Mission

### Intro/recap

We are finishing this series that we are calling “Welcome to the Planet: What on earth am I here for?” In this series what we did six weeks ago was we started by saying a question that everyone wants to know is what am I here for? Am I here for a reason? Am I an accident? What on earth am I here for? One of the things I said in that first week is that if you assume that there’s a God that maybe in this assumption that God created the earth, if God created the earth, if there was an actual creator of the earth, that God probably created it with some purpose in mind. If He created the earth with some purpose in mind there must be purpose behind me because I’m part of His creation and if there’s purpose behind me I either have to ignore that purpose or I have to pursue that purpose.

### Five Biblical Purposes for Your life

1. Honor/worship. We said you were planned for God’s pleasure. One of the reasons why you and I are on earth is to bring pleasure to God.
2. Connect/church. You were formed to be part of God’s family. We said God’s family is the church and God intends for us to connect with the local church
3. Grow/discipleship. You were created to become like Christ.
4. Discover/service. That we want to try to discover how God has gifted us and shaped us to be able to help other people, serve other people, minister to other people.
5. Reach/evangelism. That you were made for a mission and that mission is to tell others about Christ.

What I want to do when we answer this question, “What on earth am I here for? You were made for a mission.” What I want to do is unpack that for you a little bit and explain what that mission is.

### **Question #1: What is the mission?**

If I’m made for a mission, what is the mission?

- To tell people about God’s desire to have A RELATIONSHIP with them

Most people don’t fully understand that God created us to have a relationship with us. That was that first purpose that we talked about where it said “Honor” – you were planned for God’s pleasure. God wants a relationship with His creation.

The mission is not to help people become religious. The mission is to help people understand that it’s not about religion. It’s to help people understand that God wants a relationship with them. I might even say it like this, “I don’t think God cares about religion.” Religion is man’s effort to be good enough for God. However we can’t earn our way to God. God’s not concerned about religion. He doesn’t want you to be religious. He wants you to have a relationship with Him.

So the question “What is the mission?” The answer is to tell people about God’s desire to have a relationship with them.

### Mark 16:15

*And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

The gospel is the the good news. That I can have a relationship with God and that’s one of the reasons that I’m created.

### 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

*18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

This is the mission. It says God has given us the task of reconciling people to Him. Let's break down this word "reconciliation." When something is broken apart, a relationship is broken, Mom and Dad are separated and they come back together they are reconciled.

When you and I were born into this world, we were born separated from God. God is perfect, He's holy. Because we're not perfect and holy, we're separated from God. But the good news is this. We can be reconciled to Him. That's what this verse says. God has given us the task of reconciling people to Him.

That's the good news, that God forgives you, wipes your sins away completely. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors [That's the mission] and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ Himself were here pleading with you, 'Be reconciled to God!'"

So what is the mission? To tell other people the good news.

## **Question #2: How can people have a relationship with God?**

That's a good question. How do you do it? How do you have a relationship with God? If God's not concerned about religion some of you are sitting going, "Bummer! I've been trying to become religious. I check mark on my calendar the days I go to church and the days I read my Bible. And I have a little journal of my Route To Religion. Now you're wiping me out telling me that God doesn't care about religion." So how do you have a relationship with God?

Some of you in here, maybe you're hearing this for the first time. Others of you, you've heard it a million times. Take this home and you could share this with somebody else.

- **A – Admit** I've lived for myself and not for God's purposes. This is where most people stop. "I can believe that God loves me and wants a relationship with me. But I don't want to admit that I've done anything wrong. I really haven't done anything wrong." Actually you have. Has anyone in here lived a perfect life? The answer's no. We've messed up. We've screwed up. We've done things that are wrong because we've done that we've separated ourselves from a holy God. So I've got to admit that I've lived for myself and not for God's purpose.
- **B – Believe** God made me to love me and live for His purposes. I've got to believe that God loves me and wants a relationship with me.
- **C - Confess** Jesus as Lord of your life. Once you have admitted that you have done wrong, and your believe God wants a relationship with you, the next step is to confess Him as lord of your life. By confessing him as lord you are saying you will follow His will and His purpose above your own.

### Romans 10:9-11

*9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."*

## **Question #3: How do I share the good news?**

Let me answer the how question with three action steps.

### **Share with your LIFE**

It starts with your life. People don't care what you have to say until you live a life that is attractive. I know this is a lot of pressure for some of you. But your life has a message. Did you know that? Somebody could say your name and other people would say, "Oh, she is a.... He is a..." Your life has a message.

Let me ask a rhetorical question. Don't say it to another person. Just think about it. Maybe chew on it some this week, "What is your life message?" When people look at your life, what do they say? Because you share the good news just by the way you live your life.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:8

*For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.*

What he's saying is, you don't even have to talk anymore. People are looking at your life and you are the message of the good news. People see that you have been with Jesus. People know that something's different about you. Your life is the message.

You've heard this: Actions speak louder than words. I heard a phrase one time – "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary use words." That's saying it's how you live your life. What you watch. What you do. Where you go. What you talk about. How you react when somebody throws up on your homecoming dress. Those people are watching you all the time. You share the gospel with your life. What is the message that you're sending?

How do you share the gospel? You share it with your life.

### **Share with an INVITATION**

It's kind of like getting invited or inviting someone to go with you to like prom or something like that. It's just a weird situation. It's weird for everyone. It's weird for the person who's asking. It's weird for the person who gets asked. It's sort of an awkward situation. You want so-and-so to ask you but you really don't want "this" guy to ask you. And if you're the guy you really want to ask so-and-so but you think somebody else is going to ask her and if he doesn't ask her then my option 2 is....., It's just a strange situation. This picture is a pretty good illustration of what I'm talking about. How do you invite someone to do something like go out with you, go to prom?

- Have a flower delivered to each of her classes during school with the last one has a note asking her to prom. Good?
- Give the girl a loaf of bread and say, "I'd 'loaf' to go to prom with you." Ladies? No.
- Leave a cantaloupe on her doorstep with a note that says, "Since we 'cantaloupe', how about prom?" Ladies?

Why do we do it at all? Why do we make such a big deal out of school dances, go through all the trouble of inviting someone to go with you? Guys, why don't we just go home? Why would we do it? Why would we take that risk?

It has the potential to be great. There's the potential of the relationship. There's the romantic element, you're dressing up, it's a big deal, it's potential for community. You're going to be with all your friends. It's the potential for an experience that you remember forever. Right?

So what does that have to do with inviting someone to church? Or inviting them to a place where they can have an encounter with Jesus? I think it has the same potential. I think it has the potential of relationship. There's the potential at church if they invite someone that they might have a glimpse of a relationship with God.

There's the potential of being a part of a meaningful community of other believers. There's the potential of experiencing something that won't just be a memory that you'll have the rest of your life. But the potential to experience something that will change your life forever, for all eternity, when you invite someone to a place like church where they can encounter Christ. There's the opportunity to impact for eternity.

So how do we do it? First of all I want to recognize that it's awkward. When you ask someone to come with you to church it's weird. I still get scared when I ask someone to come to church with me. It's not like you're asking someone for a pen. You're asking someone to consider a spiritual dimension to their life. It's a strange thing. It's not as easy as saying, "You want to go hang out?" It's awkward. But also it's important to realize that it's urgent.

So what you do is share with your life, you share with invitation and then you

## Share with your STORY

What exactly does it mean to share with your story? Everybody in here has a story. If you're a Christian you have a story. God has done something in your life you can share your story.

There is a great event that took place in the Bible. It's in John 9. It's long so I'll paraphrase it for you. It's about Jesus healing this blind guy. I don't know if you know this or not but every time Jesus healed somebody He healed them in a different way. He didn't always heal the same way. This particular time a guy comes up and goes, "Jesus, heal me!" He's blind. And Jesus, what He does, is something very creative. He spits on the ground and makes these little mud pies out of His saliva and dirt and puts it on this guy's eyes.

So Jesus makes these mud pies, says go wash. The guy goes and washes in the place where Jesus told him to and then he can see. Then he's walking through town. He used to be the blind guy and now he can see. Some of these people come up to him and go "What happened to you? You used to be blind?" I don't know if he took off the sticker that said "Kick me – I'm blind" or how they knew he could see but they said, "You can see what's going on?" And the guy goes, "Jesus healed me." And as soon as he said, "Jesus healed me," the people got all upset, "What do you mean He healed you? Nobody can heal but God alone. Who is this Jesus guy?" And this is what the blind guy said, "I don't know." They go after him and started attacking him verbally. "Who is Jesus?" The guy says this, "I don't know. All I know is this, Once I was blind and now I see!" That was his story. Nobody could argue with his story.

What does this have to do with me?" Many of us in here are afraid of sharing our story because we're afraid if we share our story with somebody they're going to say, "Wait a minute. If you're a Christian, what about evolution?" And they're going to ask me some question I don't know how to answer. How could this be and the Bible has contradictions and where do dinosaurs come from and how many angels can fit inside a Volkswagen bug, and all these other things. What if they ask me those kind of questions? What am I supposed to do?

If somebody asks you a question you can't answer here's what you say, "Great question. That's a good question. I don't know the answer to that but let me see if I can find out. I'll ask somebody at church and get back to you. But here's what I do know... Once I was blind and now I see. Once when I was so angry with my parents. I was filled with bitterness and rage and I wanted to kill myself. Then somebody invited me to church and I heard that God loves me. I didn't fully understand everything but it changed my life." Or whatever your story is. You share your story.

How do you share the good news? You share it with your life. You share it with an invitation. Then you share it with your story.

Friends, that's simple. I'm not asking you to memorize 19 Bible verses and write them down in a little booklet then go to Wal-Mart and accost strangers as they come out. I'm not asking you to do that. I'm saying, Share with your life, invite somebody and then share your story. That's how you share the good news.

Okay, question number four. We'll end with this. I was made for a mission...

## Question #4: How can I start this mission?

Let me tell you how to start this mission. "Start small." I'm saying start small. I'm not suggesting that tomorrow you go "I'm going to conquer this campus for Christ!" And get a megaphone or something like that. No. People will think you're weird. Here's what I want to ask you to do. Start small. What about talk to one person?

If you're here today and you were brought by somebody, they weren't bringing you to trick you. They weren't bringing you to trick you into becoming a Christian or manipulate you. That's not what it's about. It's just to say you can decide to blow it off. You can keep living the world's way if you want. But the Bible teaches that there's good news. And the good news is God loves you so much He wants a relationship with you. He died on the cross for you so that you might have that relationship. That's the good news. That God can change the direction of your life as He's done for so many people.

### Acts 20:24

*But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

## **Discussion Questions**

- How would you describe the mission God has created you for?
- Why do you think God chooses to use people to care the Gospel? Why wouldn't he write it in the sky or something more miraculous?
- What is the difference in being religious and having relationship with God?
- In your own words, how do you start a relationship with God?
- Do you agree that your life shares a message about what you believe in?
- What do you think the relationship is between your actions and your beliefs? Do you think they are closely related, why or why not?
- Do you believe people need an invitation to come to church or start a relationship with God, or do you think they will come on their own?
- Is it hard for you to invite people to church? Why or why not?
- Is it difficult for you to tell others about Jesus?
- What does it mean to share your story?
- Do you feel like you need to know more to be able to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- What about your story makes it meaningful? Do you have to have a testimony of how God saved you in a crazy way for it to have impact?
- Who is one person you can share Jesus with? Would you be willing to invite them to church?