



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

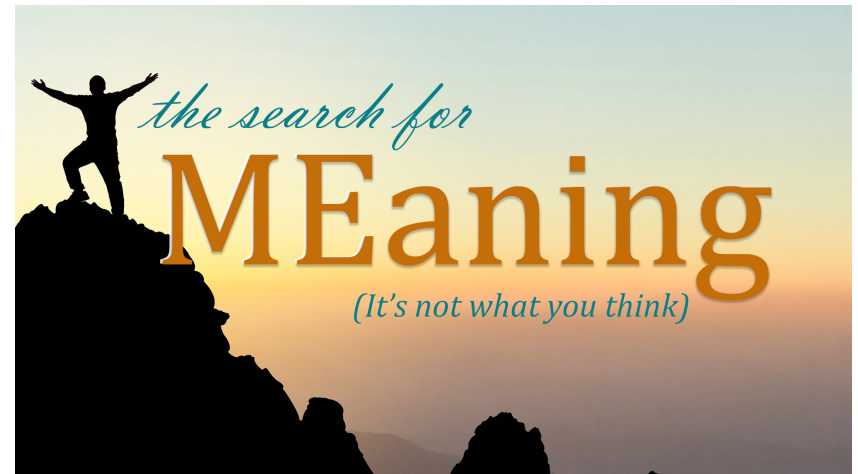
This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. Consider Exodus 9:16, "But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth." What does this mean to you? Do you feel this purpose is being realized in your life today? Why or why not?
2. How does learning to look at the things you are doing in your life through the lens of means begin to reshape things that might feel meaningless to you?
3. What stirs your heart today? What breaks your heart? What opportunities has God put in front of you? Who is likely to be helped or encouraged by your God-given skills?

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Discuss the importance of being surrounded by on-purpose people (people whose lives glorify God). Read together and discuss Proverbs 22:24-25, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Matthew 5:13-16.
2. Discuss what it is to pay attention to the things that break our hearts or those who need our help. Who can you help this week?
3. Take some time pray together.



Today's Service

November 12th, 2017

Series: The Search for MEaning

Part 2: pURpose

Pastor Brian Stanley



John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Purpose is about being or becoming a _____ to an _____.

Philippians 2:3-11 (NLT) ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 9:23-24 (NLT) ²³Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Purpose has a _____. While purpose has a price, it is the _____ to meaning.

Your purpose is _____ to God's _____.

Exodus 9:16 (NLT) ¹⁶But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth.

Purpose is always found just across the border from "what's in it for me."

3 ideas to help you become a means to an end:

1) Begin _____ at everything you're doing through the _____ of means.

Colossians 3:2-4 (NLT) ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

2) Pay attention to what _____ your heart.

Purpose is often found at the _____ of a broken heart, opportunity, and skill.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT) ¹⁰God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

3) Surround yourself with ____ - _____ people.

Proverbs 22:24-25 (NLT) ²⁴Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, ²⁵or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT) ³³Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) ¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Learn to ask better questions such as:

"_____ is my purpose?"

