

COMMISSIONED

THE ART OF LIVING OUT THE WORDS, WAYS, & MISSION OF JESUS

9.2 Partnering in the Mission of Jesus

The Story of You

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There never has been and never will be anyone like you. That's not a testament to you, it's a testament to the God who created you. And the significance of that is this; no one can worship God like you, no one can serve God like you, no one can take your place. You have a unique fingerprint, voiceprint, I would add, soulprint. Well, welcome to another addition of this podcast series, we're talking about The Story of You. God has uniquely wired you, and you have to figure out the story that God is writing in and through your life, in part, to share that story with others. It's one of the greatest gifts that you can give to someone else. Number one, you are unique. I just said it, never been anyone like you. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works prepared for us in advance." That's actually my life verse. It gives me a sense of destiny because God is setting us up, creating those divine appointments, making sure that we meet the right people at the right time, in the right way.

And God wants to use your gifts, your passions, your history, your personality. If you want to have a little bit of fun, go back and check out our series called Genius. It's this idea that God wants to work through gifts, what you do best, passions, what you love most, as well as your unique history and personality. The truth is, God doesn't want you to be more like Moses, God bless Moses, but He wants you to be more like you. If you is who you ain't, you ain't who you is. And so we have a dual destiny. One destiny is being conformed to the image of Christ becoming more and more like Jesus. But as we do that, we become differentiated, we become unlike anybody else. You have a story to tell. Revelation 12:11 says that we, "Overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony." Now, I better say this upfront testimony is prophecy. If God did it before He can do it again. If God did it for you, He can do it for me.

And so testimony is a powerful thing. Can I challenge you? Have you ever written out your testimony, your journey of faith, or even some of your life story? What are the lessons that God has taught you? I feel like everybody ought to have a handful of quotes that have impacted their life, for example. What are the defining moments? A number of years ago, did a life plan with a life coach, and we don't have the time or space to do that on this podcast, but I will tell you this, that most of us are defined by a handful of experiences. And we've got to understand those. I'm afraid that in our culture, some people know more about their favorite celebrity than they know about themselves. And so we've got to make sure that we study our own life. When have you experienced God's grace who has left their fingerprints on your soul? What are those defining moments in your life? Let me have a little bit of fun right here.

When I was 22, and I was interviewing for credentials for ordination to ministry, I remember I brushed up on all my theology, I had my eschatology all set to go, pretty sure I knew when the Lord was going to return, and a wise presbyter asked me a question, I wasn't prepared for it, it didn't have anything to do with theology. He said, "If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?" Now, I better not leave you hanging, my answer at 22 was driven. And I was pretty proud of my answer then, I thought I nailed it. "They're going to go ahead and ordained me on this spot." The reality is, I look back and kind of chuckle at my younger self. But my point is this; we've got to grow in our self-awareness. Now, you may have already heard the story of God. And so let me make one observation. If you want to get to know yourself, you have to get to know God.

Why? Because He knows you better than you know you. He has plans and purposes for your life, he knit you together in your mother's womb. He is the one that calls us, the one that wires us. And so it's in a relationship with God that we begin to tap that potential that He's given to us. And so can I just simply say, you have a story to tell, and it makes a difference. You need to share that story with people in a way that it's not necessarily prescriptive, but descriptive. This is what God has done in my life. That's one of the greatest gifts that you can give another person. In 2 Corinthians 3, Paul reminds us that we are letters from Christ. I like to say it this way, you're the only Bible some people will ever read. The question is this, are you a good translation? I get to preach behind a pulpit and I love it. But the truth is, all of us have a sphere of influence, your pulpit is whatever you do. It's your job, it's your colleagues. That is your church.

You are called to be a prophet, to be a priest in that environment. And part of it is just by living your life in a way that is authentic, that you are following the Jesus way. I also want to encourage you, there are opportunities to share your faith with people around you. And I don't mean standing on a street corner and necessarily citing chapter and verse, I mean living with integrity, in a way that when you have joy in tough experiences, people ask the question, "How does that happen? How do you have that?" And that gives you opportunity to begin to explain how a relationship with Jesus changes everything. Let me zoom out and just share one final thought. God is writing His story. When we come to faith in Christ, we actually get grafted into God's story.

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The Bible becomes our back story, but then God wants to write His-story, history with a hyphen, in and through your life. And can I just say, if you give the author and perfecter of your faith full editorial control, He will write some amazing stories in and through your life in Jesus' name. Amen.