

CHOOSE YOUR ATTITUDE, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

5 – Choose Purpose over Aimlessness

**"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the evils of these days. Don't be vague, but grasp firmly what you know to be the will of the Lord."
- Ephesians 5:15-17, Phillips**

**"...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."
- Philippians 3:12**

Throughout the New Testament, Christ-followers are urged to live intentionally and with purpose. Kingdom living involves being spiritually alert, recognizing significant moments that are rich with opportunity, and acting deliberately and decisively.

Welcome

What is the most important thing you've done in the last 24 hours?
What made it so important?

Word

Read Luke 16:1-15

1. In what crisis does the manager find himself? What plan does he devise? In light of the manager's deceit, why does the owner commend him (vs 8)?
2. What was Jesus' point in using this parable?
3. Jesus' parable of the shrewd manager describes someone who lived with the end in mind. What are some areas of your life that require an ability to look ahead and "position" yourself in order to make the most of opportunities?
4. How does Jesus apply the parable to one's use of money? How could the parable be applied to other areas of our lives as well (i.e., our use of time)?
5. In what specific ways do you find yourself looking ahead for your spiritual life? For your family? For your ministry in this church? Or *do* you? Explain.

Worship

Share a specific way in which the Lord is challenging you to put this passage into practice. What changes will it entail? Read with Ephesians 5:15-17 or Philippians 3:12-14 and transition into a time of expressing your devotion to God. "Seek Ye First" (555), "Have Thine Own Way" (557), "Lord, Take Control" (790), "Make Me New" (691).

Works

Spend some time this week asking yourself, "If my _____ (just fill in the blank—i.e., "spiritual walk," "marriage," "parenting") were to go on just the way it's been going, what will it be like in five years? *What changes do you need to make in your schedule—living with "the end in mind?"*

There are many ways you can organize your life. If you are living your life merely by a "to-do" list, you aren't *purpose*-driven, you are *activity*-driven. If you haven't already developed the habit, learn to look ahead and schedule your priorities before someone else (and it could be you!) fills up your schedule with things that aren't eternal.