

Living on Purpose: Your Personal Mission Statement

Up Front

- Irony of ME teaching THIS
- Hindrances
 - Doesn't fit my personality
 - Takes too much time to think out before getting things done
 - Too legalistic...I need to just listen to the Spirit and get after it
- Legalism or Unleashing?
 - The unleashing comes in the setting of BEST parameters (playground w/fence)
 - Propels us toward what we are designed to do
 - Prohibits us from going beyond into what we should NOT do
 - Eisenhower not going to Berlin, G.H.W. Bush not going to Baghdad
- What I've seen
 - Personally
 - Ministries (ex of recent conversation)

Removing the Mystery

- What Simba Learned... (Hakuna Matata; Remember Who You Are clips). Hakuna Matata philosophy was 'live in the moment only'. The past and present are not important and should not bother you. BUT when your identity is that of the King's child (Christian!!), you have a destiny and a role. That role should determine your actions and choices (it shapes your personal mission/vision).

What we are doing today is basically this...

- Determining FIRST those things that are truly MOST important (specifying them)
 - Most of us know (somewhere in our heads) what they are **but** don't articulate/own
 - You must articulate/own and clarify them IF you are going to LIVE by them
- Determining "Who Am I" in light of those MOST important things
- Determining my most important life challenges (calling) in light of them
- Deciding daily things (less important things, urgencies, tasks, priorities) in light of all the above
- *Example: there was a Young QB at the TOP of Aggie exhibition game last Spring (Jamiel Showers). Johnny had to decide to see himself as starting QB and choose/act accordingly...next steps were to California training (action in light of vision). What happened?*

It's in the Bible

- Descriptive, not Prescriptive –
 - There's no: Thou shalt have a MVV Statement...no one instructing how
 - YET, so many characters of profound impact make statements of MVV
 - It is interesting to look toward the END of their service to see it...
- Joshua – What do you think of?
 - 1:8? – Is God's words TO him...but he clearly took to heart (visit Ch 1)
 - "As for me and my house..." – comes at the END of His story as he recounts God's Provision - 24:14-15!
 - Clearly at key times – Jericho – he looked inward to THIS understanding!

- David –
 - What’s his ‘subtitle’? Man after God’s own Heart
 - Primarily profoundly successful in accomplishing God’s plans
 - End of life charge to Solomon (1 Kings 2:3 – **“Keep the charge of the Lord your God to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me...”**)
 - Acts 13:36 (a little out of context, but note the phrase: “when he had served the purpose of God in his own generation...”)
 - RICK WARREN QUOTE

- Paul –
 - a ‘late start’ with an inauspicious early career right?
 - Yet, the turnaround was HUGE and the fruit borne during his relatively short ministry would change the world forever – and set a firm stage for US to know Christ!
 - What words come to mind as indicative of His mission? Gal 2:20; Rom 1:16; 1 Tim 2:7
 - Most of 2 Timothy reads as a Mission Statement in its impartation of priorities to his young Disciple!

READ from COVEY: Habit 2 – Writing and Using Personal Mission Statement

Definitions are Important Because MANY talk/write about this, and everyone varies terms!

Zero In On Mission

What did Jesus Say? A LOT...and two “GREATS”

Great Commandment

Love God with Everything (Worship...Service)

Love Neighbor As Self

Who’s my neighbor? In Good Sam, Jesus included pretty much ALL others!
Family, Church, Community, “THEM”

So...

Loving God: Worship and Service

Loving People: Better than I love ME (where’d I get that? Philippians 2)

Great Commission - Two iterations recorded...BOTH matter!

WHAT?

From Matt 28: Make Disciples (going) – (For the “GO is a participle” purists).

So yes, the verb is Make Disciples...AND movement is intended!

WHERE?

From Acts 1: note the “AND” - J/J, Samaria, Uttermost!!! **UNPACK IT!!**

Throughout all of Scripture, God’s mission has been that His people reach people of every nation.

Yet, a lot of Christians apply this to others (missionaries). Fully align YOUR mission, vision, etc. with His. Challenge yourself toward the nations at every level.

So...

Great Commission for us is...

- *Growing Up Christ-Followers (who grow up others... and expand His church)*
- *Here...among “them”...and WAY out there! (unto ALL nations)*

You give it a try...take a few minutes to begin writing your own...

Zero In On Vision

Look Around You

- What opportunities exist where I live and where I serve?
- What people are here around me to build and prepare me in unique/special ways?
- What have I done in the past where I've seen Him provide, use me, MOVE?
- What am I DOING where I see some of that also?

Look AT You

- What are my roles? (believer, husband, daddy, Pastor, member of this body, beacon)
- What (and from what) have I learned things in my past?
- What (and from what) am I learning things now?
- When others feed into me, what do they AFFIRM? What do they want to change?

Look AHEAD

- How do I KNOW He desires for me to BE better?
- How do I KNOW He desires for me to DO better?

You give it a try...take a few minutes to start writing your own...

WRAP UP - Making Your Statement...

- Pray! Ask! Seek! Knock!
- Start it - You can start with the handout – but use your words and thoughts.
- Complete It – Write it down and work on it over (a little bit of) time...ALL stages (to tactics)
- Cut it – too wordy means you won't remember it much and you won't use it.
- Keep it – seriously consider where you will see it and go back to it...multiple places.
- Revisit it – far too many of us will let it go fallow, ignoring it for years.

Handouts follow:

Definitions and Examples

MISSION – big, timeless statement of God’s priorities and purpose in regard to Himself and humanity

Ask: What is God “all about” ...universally and in our world?

Answer: He is glorifying Himself by drawing men and women everywhere to worship and serve Him.

Start with something like: I exist to serve a God who...

VISION (also called PURPOSE)– person, place, time and opportunity-specific statement of what I am here for in light of *Mission*

Ask: What is God calling ME to BE and DO in fulfillment of His mission?

Example: Here and now, I have been created and redeemed to fulfill His mission with my life via... dedication to _____ ministry in a majority of my spare time. *

VALUES – important truths I support and uphold, lines I won’t cross, things I hold dear, who I am

Ask: What are the truths and priorities (regarding God, others, self, calling) that I love and live by?

Answer: Your answer will include Christian absolutes AND personal (hopefully godly) passions.*

Example: As one called to the above, I highly value excellence in the stewardship of my time.

OBJECTIVES (Key Objectives, Success Criteria) – ways to quickly know/measure if I’m doing the above

Ask: How do I define and measure “success”?

Answer: Look down the road (near and far) and identify specific priorities, projects, goals, actions

Example: A year from now, I will be consistently giving more time to _____ ministries.

STRATEGIES/TACTICS - larger patterns of activity/daily tasks to live out the above effectively

Ask: What patterns/choices will define my life’s activity? What will I do today, tomorrow, soon about it?

Examples:

Strategies will still be somewhat general: “I will make more efficient and effective use of every day.”

Tactics deal with the very specific and day-to-day: “I will wake every day at 5:30 AM (and not snooze).”

* At either the Vision or Values level, begin to identify and break out various important life-roles: spouse, parent, leader, employee, etc.

MISSION

Great Commandment

Great Commission

Examples:

I have been called to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and to love others as myself, experiencing fulfillment now and for eternity through God's design.

The goal of my life is to know God better than I know anything else so that I can delight in Him more than anything else.

I exist to know and adore Jesus Christ, pouring His life into to my wife & children, my fellow employees, my family and church family and the lost people of my community and world.

My Try:

VISION

Look Around You

Look AT You

What better things will He do IN me and THROUGH me – to move His mission forward?

Example: (Vision will likely be broken into role-areas of your life, so this example represents only a portion.)

Serving in a body that sends, I will respond to God's call to minister internationally, while still at an age/stage in which I am available to do so.

My Try: