

- Last week we started a two-part series “You Have An Assignment”
- We learned about how there are some assignment that all believers have in common, such as the Great Commission; “*Go into all the world, and make disciples of every nation...*”
- But being part of God’s family also comes with unique assignments... an identity and purpose that God chose just for you!!

### **Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

*<sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

- There is no such thing as a believer without a unique assignment... before you were born God planned unique things for you to do...
- Your assignment is the overflow of your life... it’s the good fruit that you “produce”! It’s not God’s intent for us to receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life... and then not go any further. We are expected to discover and operate in our spiritual assignment!

### **1 Corinthians 12:29-31 (NLT)**

*<sup>29</sup> Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! <sup>31</sup> So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.*

- Your assignment is the mission or position in God’s family to which you’ve been called. No one else can be who you’ve been called to be...
- Your personality, background, talents, and passions are unique – so your assignment is unique! Every believer is on a spiritual journey to discover and walk in the unique assignment that God has for the
- This begins as we immerse ourselves in Scripture – God’s written word (*logos*) – and let the Holy Spirit speak and reveal God’s plans (a *rhema* word) that are just for us!

### **God’s Assignment Is Not Limited to...**

- Some of us might get warm and fuzzy when we think about the fact that God has a unique assignment just for us... but not everyone has that response. Especially when parts of the plan don’t match our expectation!
- God’s purposes always prevail... but sometimes the plan for our life that unfolds is much different than what we had imagined it to be!

- The story of Moses is an interesting example of someone who didn't exactly jump up and down with joy as he began to discover God's plan
- Moses was born to Hebrew slaves living in Egypt, rescued out of a floating baby basket in the Nile River, and was adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh. He was raised as a member of the Egyptian royal family... after murdering a man out of righteous anger when he was 40 years old, he fled for his life to the desert of Midian (modern-day Saudi Arabia).
- Married the daughter of the priest of Midian, and became a shepherd for his father-in-law. He's now 80 years old, and still tending sheep in the desert...
- How many times over those 40 years must Moses have wrestled with God over his assignment? Born into slavery and yet the miracle of being found and adopted by Pharaoh's own daughter – what was God's purpose in all? There had to be more to God's plan for his life than watching over sheep!
- Have you ever been in a place where you've said that to God? *"God, what is your purpose in all this?"* You know without a doubt that God established very specific things in your life and took you through specific seasons of life for a reason, yet the reason remains unclear?
- What do you think Moses' expectations were for his life by this time? He knew of the suffering of his people... but what could he do? The only time he tried to help the Hebrew people he ended up killing an Egyptian, and putting his own life in extreme danger!
- One day as Moses is caring for sheep near the mountain of Sinai, he sees a flaming bush that doesn't burn up... and so he naturally to come closer to investigate...

#### **Exodus 3:4-6 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> *When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"*

*"Here I am!" Moses replied.*

<sup>5</sup> *"Do not come any closer," the LORD warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. <sup>6</sup> I am the God of your father —the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

- Moses didn't know it yet, but he was about to discover his unique assignment: the reason he had been born a Hebrew and not an Egyptian, the reason he had been raised in the royal palace and trained in all the knowledge of the Egyptians...

#### **Exodus 3:9-10 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> *Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. <sup>10</sup> Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."*

- Any wondering that Moses has ever had about God's purpose ends with those words – now he's heard a *rhema* word from God – God's specific and unique assignment for his life.
- And he has the most classic human response. Starting in verse 11, Moses starts to make excuses... :)

**Exodus 3:11** (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

- Over the next two chapters, Moses tells God again and again why he's not the right choice to lead God's people out of Egypt...
- *"I'm not good enough..."*  
*"I don't have all the answers"*  
*"People won't believe me"*  
*"I'm a terrible public speaker"*  
and finally *"I'm just not qualified!"*

**Exodus 4:13** (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."

- Despite whatever Moses thought about himself, as far as God was concerned, Moses was just the man for the job!
- This story is a great illustration how God's ways are not our ways... and His assignment for us is often very different than the expectations or preferences that we might for our own future.
- In one sentence, here's what Moses learned that day standing in front of a burning bush, in the very presence of God.
- God's assignment for you is not limited to what you are comfortable doing, what you think you're capable of, or what seems reasonable or appropriate.

**A) God's assignment is not limited to what you are comfortable doing.**

- We live in a climate with a short growing season and very cold winters. Wouldn't it be nice if you and I could go outside and grab oranges or pineapples off trees in our yard? Well, we can't, because those things don't grow here!
- *"The comfort zone is a nice place to be, but nothing grows there!"* Josh Rinsdorf told that to me recently... I couldn't attribute the quote to anyone else... so Josh gets the credit!

- When you're living in Comfort Zone, there are few disappointments, you know pretty much what you're doing every day and you feel competent doing it. Life is predictable.
- The problem with this place is nothing ever grows there. You don't grow when you're not being stretched... when you don't accept new challenges... when you never venture into the unknown.
- After 40 years in the desert, the nation of Israel still needed encouragement to move forward and conquer Canaan. It would have been easier and more comfortable to keep going around in circles rather than face their fears and doubts head-on and cross the Jordan River to start fighting for their inheritance.

### **Joshua 1:9 (NLT)**

*<sup>9</sup>This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

- But after Jericho, and Ai, and other victories that came by God helping them, the Israelites gained strength, and their confidence in God's power surged, causing them to be able to quickly conquer the land!
- When Moses the aged shepherd finishes rehearsing his excuses, he shows amazing single-mindedness. The Moses of Exodus chapters three and four is the same man that shows remarkable courage, obedience, and strength of character a few chapters later.
- Even though he was slow to accept the call and God's assignment, once he does Moses holds fast to it faithfully until his death, and his legacy was to become one of Israel's greatest prophets and leaders. (think Transfiguration!)

### **B) God's assignment is not limited to what you think you are capable of doing.**

- Honestly, God doesn't need your capabilities... He'll work with what you have... and He will use your passions and talents to bring glory to God (and cause you to be happy and fulfilled in the process)... think of the boy with 5 fishes and 2 loaves to feed 5000
- What he's really looking for is people who are willing to yield to His assignment – people who are ready invite Jesus to take over their priorities!
- It's not our capabilities that causes us to have success anyway, it's our connection to Jesus. Jesus taught us in John 15 how when we stay connected to Him (the main vine), that you and I (the branches) will naturally start to produce fruit.

### **John 15:16 (NLT)**

*<sup>16</sup>You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.*

- Remember your assignment is the overflow of your life... it's the goodness of God that you can't contain... it's the natural outcome and spiritual output of being connected to Jesus as your source of life!

**C) God's assignment is not limited to what seems reasonable or appropriate**

- Does it seem reasonable to ask someone to spend 500 years building a boat big enough to contain a mating pair of every species of animal on the earth?
- Does it seem reasonable to send a shepherd boy to fight Goliath, or appropriate to choose a stinky animal shelter as the location for the birth of God's own son, or to select twelve uneducated nobodies to establish the greatest movement the earth will ever know...
- Why is it that when God's plan begins to be revealed to us, often our first instinct is to discard the parts that don't seem reasonable or appropriate to our way of thinking? *"Surely God you're not asking me to do that?!?"*

**Romans 11:33 (TPT)**

*<sup>33</sup> Who could ever wrap their minds around the riches of God, the depth of his wisdom, and the marvel of his perfect knowledge? Who could ever explain the wonder of his decisions or search out the mysterious way he carries out his plans?*

- One thing that causes children to be vulnerable and require our protection is that often they don't question, they just accept. It's also what makes their faith so powerful... they don't question, they just accept.

**Matthew 18:3 (TPT)**

*<sup>3</sup> "Learn this well: Unless you dramatically change your way of thinking and become teachable, and learn about heaven's kingdom realm with the wide-eyed wonder of a child, you will never be able to enter in."*

- Are you willing to set aside your perceptions of what is a reasonable or appropriate ask from God, and accept whatever assignment He has for you?
- Rather than trying to protect yourself, are you willing to place your trust in God, and place your future in God's hands?

**Psalms 18:30 (NLT)**

*<sup>30</sup> God's way is perfect.  
All the LORD's promises prove true.  
He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.*

- I have never read or heard of a single follower of Christ who at the end of their journey, has made the statement *"I wish I had yielded less to Jesus... and done it my way instead."*

- You've never heard anyone make that statement either, because a life yielded to Christ's assignment will never feel unfulfilled... we have the sure promise of God that HIS WAY is perfect... and all HIS PROMISES prove true.
- As he neared the end of his assignment on this earth, Paul the Apostle expressed how he viewed a life of following Christ's call:

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)**

*<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. <sup>8</sup>And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.*

- A life dedicated to Christ's assignment is a life that won't end in regret, but instead eager anticipation of the Lord's reward for all who remain faithful.

**Be Led With Peace**

- God's assignment for you is not limited to what you are comfortable doing, what you think you're capable of, or what seems reasonable or appropriate.
- When opportunities or decisions lie ahead of you, it's natural to have objections. But more than anything else, you need to identify whether the objections are from your flesh or your spirit. *"Is the hesitancy I feel coming from my flesh, or is the Spirit of God directing me?"*
- With God's help, you can overcome objections from your flesh, like being pushed out of your comfort zone or feeling inadequate to the task... because God is your helper...
- If He's asking, then He's qualifying you, He's helping you, and He's providing for you!

**Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)**

*<sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

- As God's plans and assignment become revealed to you... it's completely normal to feel strong objections by your flesh and your mind, yet feel complete peace in your spirit!
- The will of God is often the peace "that passes all understanding..." It might not make sense to our minds, it might not be what our flesh feels like doing... but it's the way of peace, and the way to fulfillment and victory. Go with the peace!