



GROW AT HOME

DAILY DEVOTION

DAY 51

READ

ACTS 13

FOCUS

³⁶ NOW WHEN DAVID HAD SERVED GOD'S PURPOSE IN HIS OWN GENERATION, HE FELL ASLEEP; HE WAS BURIED WITH HIS ANCESTORS AND HIS BODY DECAYED.

REFLECTION from PASTOR DOYLE SURRATT

Today we look at Acts chapter ten. I have picked just one small section of the chapter to talk about today... given that it is kind of one of my "life verses." It actually isn't the point of the whole chapter but rather a proof of Christ's superiority over even the great King David. Having said that, I have long taken the message of Acts 13:36 as guiding wisdom for my life. It says: "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed." In this brief sentence we are reminded of some things that can help us appreciate and take full advantage of the life we have.

For example, we are made for a purpose! Scripture teaches that, like David, God has a purpose for each of us. I have come to believe that until we are involved in the purpose God has intended us for we will never experience true fulfillment. I think we will try to do things that make others think we're special or we lie and try to tell ourselves that our efforts are worthy of admiration, but, at the end of the day, I'm not sure we ever convince ourselves that we're not just wasting oxygen. However, in Christ I can know that my life matters and that as a part of God's life-giving redemptive plan I am bringing "spiritual oxygen" to the world around me.

I have a friend who has spent his career in Urban Planning. This field of study employs the principle of finding "the highest and best use" of a parcel of land. Now, people have many different interpretations of this principle when it comes to land usage, but there can be no argument that serving the purpose that God created you for is the "highest and best use" of your life. I have found this concept very helpful in making decisions--from large to small. One time, many years ago, another friend said to me that he expected me to leave ministry and go into business. I remember thinking, "Why?" Not that business is bad or that I couldn't serve God as a business person, but for me, I know the gifts I've been given, the experiences I've had, and the things that fuel my passion all lead to me to believe that the best and highest use of my life is doing what I do. This is God's purpose for me. What is God's purpose for you?

And then the verse gives us this sobering reminder: when David was done, he fell asleep. And, as if we didn't fully get the point, it goes on to remind us that he was buried and his body decayed. Wow, that's harsh. But it is a great reminder that none of us will get out of this life alive unless Christ returns. The point being: don't waste this time you have here and don't fall into the trap of thinking that this is all there is. We all get caught up in the moment and just want to get back to "better times" so that we can "start living again." But you are alive right now and not by accident. So what are we waiting for? Live now! Pursue His purpose for you now! Carpe Quarantine! O.K. maybe that phrase isn't going to catch on (nor should it) but at some point, we have to stop waiting on something external to trigger us to live what God placed within us when He knit us together in our mother's womb. How are you (and I) fulfilling the purpose for which God made us in this crisis?

One of the things I have found myself praying often lately is that God would help me keep eternity in mind as I act (and react) during this time. The truth is, I love being given the opportunity to be involved in God's plan...but it has been going on long before I showed up and will continue long after I'm gone (should Christ not come sooner). I'm only responsible for what God has entrusted to me, just a small part of His work and I can't really do anything about those things beyond my assignment other than pray and maybe encourage.

I see a lot of us trying to do the President's job or make the decisions the governor needs to make (I do it too, and I'm pretty good at it). But I haven't been given those assignments. What I am called to do is deal with my life, character, attitude, family, and congregation. Sure, I can have an opinion but I really need to take of business at home first (and then I can tell everyone else how to do their job). I'm sure that I am probably the only one struggling with this but I thought I would throw it out there just in case.



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REFLECTION from PASTOR DOYLE SURRETT (CONTD)

The thing I need to do most is to depend on Jesus. He is not like me; He actually can affect all things--everywhere--and He always knows the right solution. The next passage in Acts 13 is verse 37. It reminds us how unlike us He is: "But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay." Jesus is God and is not subject to the kind of wrong-headedness that I so struggle with because He is different. He is God. The closer I get to God, the more "right headed" I become, the more useful I am to his kingdom, and the more helpful I am to others around me.

You are here for a purpose--find it, do it. Have you? Are you? You are not going to be here forever, better get on with it! Have you? Are you? May God help us all as we depend on Him.

QUESTIONS

- HOW ARE YOU FULFILLING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOD MADE YOU IN THIS CRISIS?
- HOW DOES DOYLE'S MESSAGE TODAY CHALLENGE YOU TO STEP INTO THIS PURPOSE TODAY (AND BEYOND)?