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# The Life of Jesus (Our Destiny)

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Witnessing Jesus

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Subject: Witnessing Jesus: The Life of Jesus (Our Destiny)***

Previous Series (Witnessing to the Culture): Silence, Go, Teach, Baptize, Life, and Strong Man

Current Series (Witnessing Jesus) Messages:

- **Interrogating the Witness** (People, Self, God)
- **The Way of Jesus** (Our Calling: Many to Chosen, Darkness to Light, Death to Life)
- **The Truth of Jesus** (Our Deliverance: Knowing the Truth, Speaking the Truth, Living the Truth)

***Lesson Text***

John 10:9–10 (AV)<sup>9</sup> **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.** <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

1 Peter 5:5–7 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: <sup>7</sup> Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

***Introduction***

As we stated last week, to find a point in space we need three dimensions: The x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis; or the Latitude, Longitude, and Altitude!

In our lesson text, Jesus gives us the three dimensions to finding God

John 14: <sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

1. **THE WAY** (Our Spiritual Latitude – Our Calling)
2. **THE TRUTH** (Our Spiritual Longitude – Our Deliverance)
3. **And THE LIFE** (Our Spiritual Altitude – Our Destiny)

Last week we looked at our Spiritual Latitude: **The Truth of Jesus (Our Deliverance):**

- Knowing The Truth
- Speaking The Truth
- Living The Truth

(Bondage may be our Reality, But it is not our Truth; You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.)

Let's now look at the final dimension to finding God, our Spiritual Altitude which is Life.

How many of you have ever felt Disappointed with Life? Dishearten, Despondent, Depressed, or Discouraged with Life? Why does this happen?

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...**

We feel this way because our Joy is stolen (no happiness), our Faith is killed (no hope), and our Purpose is destroyed (no reason to live).

John 10: <sup>10</sup> ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Life is our Spiritual Altitude; it represents one's Spiritual Height, Advancement, and Elevation. This is our Destiny!

But the way we achieve it is not in us reaching for new heights, advance ourselves to the next promotion, or pull ourselves up to the next elevation; but instead it is in humbling ourselves.

1 Peter 5: <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

The Way to God is 1) Spiritual Latitude (Our Calling), 2) Spiritual Longitude (Our Deliverance), and 3) Spiritual Altitude (Our Destiny)

### ***Series and Subject: Witnessing Jesus: The Life of Jesus (Our Destiny)***

To reach our destiny of Life we need The Joy of Life, The Faith of Life, and the Purpose of Life

#### ***I. The Joy of Life***

John 10: <sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Nehemiah 8:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> ... for *this* day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

One of the first things the enemy does is he steals the Joy of our Lives. He does this by conflating our Joy with our Happiness.

The reasons many people are unsatisfied with life, disheartened, dejected, despondent, or depressed is simply because they are not happy. The enemy steals their Joy!

We are living life, but we are not happy with it. Not happy with our jobs or careers, not happy with family or friends, not happy with our relationships or marriages, not happy with ministry or churches.

All this unhappiness is designed to steal our joy, our zest for life; and many people just give up.

Out of the 28 seasons of life in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Ecclesiastes, half of them will be unhappy.

The problem is we get frustrated with being unhappy and pride will make us feel we deserve to be happy. But this will actually pull us away from the Joy of the Lord

1 Peter 5: <sup>5</sup> ... be clothed with humility: for God resist the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

#### **To get to the Joy of Life, we must Humble ourselves and Leap for It**

Luke 6:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Joy is not found in happiness, it is obtained from the Lord

Happiness is based on how we feel; but Joy is based on how humble we can become.

So we have to stop waiting for happiness to show up, and go get your joy.

## **II. The Faith of Life**

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Hebrews 11:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The second thing the enemy does is he kills the Faith of our Life. He does this by conflating our Faith with our Hope.

The next reason people give up on life is they lose hope. They start out life believing that they can do anything thing, be anybody, achieve their dreams and aspirations.

Life beats them down until it beats the hope out of them.

Hebrews 11:<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

And so the enemy kills our faith by destroying our hope, and without hope we stop working.

James 2:26 (AV)<sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1 Peter 5: <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

### **To get to the Faith of Life we must Humble ourselves and Hope against Hope**

Romans 4:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

We can't give up on life because things aren't working out the way we thought they would work out, we have to hope against hope and let God work it out.

## **III. The Purpose of Life**

John 10: <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Romans 8:28 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

To Keep us from our Destiny,

- The Enemy Steals the Joy of Life, and we must not wait on happiness, but leap for joy
- The Enemy Kills the Faith of Life, and we must not give up hope, but hope against hope
- The final thing the enemy does is he Destroys the Purpose of Life, and we must not lose our purpose, but work it together for good

When people feel that their life has no meaning or purpose, they give up on life.

They give up because of loss, they give up because of hurt and pain, they give up because they feel like there's no reason for them to keep living.

1 Peter 5:<sup>7</sup> Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**To get to the Purpose of Life we must Humble ourselves and know it's the Lord's Purpose**

2 Chronicles 20:15 (AV)<sup>15</sup> And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.

It's not our purpose, it's the Lord's. It's not our destiny, it's the Lord's. It's not our body that needs healing, it's the Lord's. It's not our mind that needs peace, it's the Lord's. It's not our fight, it's not our battle, it's not our struggle, **It's The Lord's!**