

**April 2009**  
**Pursuing the Purpose of God**

**Today's Message:**  
**From Way Down to Way Up!**  
**“Your Purpose is Higher than your Past!”**  
**Philippians 2.5-10**

April 12, 2009

REVIEW

What is the Purpose of God?

*Romans 8.28/Eccles. 3.1*

1. Does everyone have a purpose? *Eccles. 3.1*
2. Why do people end up not walking in their purpose? *Jn 8.31,32*
3. Can I know exactly what my purpose in life really is? *Mt.25.21*

Where are you from? The question is asked frequently. You meet someone for the first time and you want to know where they're from. Sometimes we even make judgments about the person based on the answer. New York, L.A., ATL, prison... and some people even lie about where they're from in order to impress people. They name the biggest city near their unknown little hometown.

If you asked Esther where she was from she would have to refer you to a place named “Orphan City” on “Poverty Lane”. No parents, no money and no glamour! David would tell you that he grew up out in “Shepherd’s Field” down by “Forgotten Avenue”. Jesus would respond in similar fashion. Born at the Red Roof Inn. Raised in poverty stricken ghetto of Jerusalem.

What's amazing is that the end of these individuals is diametrically opposed to their beginning. They started low and ended up high. They began with no purpose and ended up with global purposes. They started with nothing and ended up with everything.

What were the common issues of their lives and how does that line up with our lives? What do we learn from looking at their lives?

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1. Where you are does not change God’s search for you. **1 Sa. 16.11**  
*11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"*  
*"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."*

- David had the lowest job in the house  
He may have not been out front but God knew where he was!

- David was not even called to meet the prophet!  
Even when others forget you, God never does!

David was still God’s choice to be king. **Dan 2:21**  
*21 And He changes the times and the seasons;*  
*He removes kings and raises up kings;*

When God makes a choice the choice is made and He chose you!

2. Who you were has nothing to do with who you will be. **Est 2:17**

*The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

- Esther was a poor orphan.  
She came from nothing and had no business being with these other people.  
God can take you from nothing. Never served God. Never been to church.  
Grew up in church but couldn’t get it right.

- Esther was a foreigner and hated as a Jew. **Mt.19:30**  
*30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first*

God delights in taking entire groups of people who were enslaved and putting them in places of royalty.

- Esther found favor in the eyes of the king!

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3. What you become is His doing and not yours. **Prov 19:21**

*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. NIV*

- Jesus was the Son of God before anyone knew it. **Luke 2.49**  
You're already a chosen man or woman before anyone ever knows who you are.
- Jesus was already given his name before He had a chance to prove Himself. **Verse 9**
- Jesus made Himself available and became King of Kings! **Mt.2.2**  
Jesus was born King! His position is what now makes it possible to change your position. He took your place on the cross so you could take His place as a son or daughter of God.