

## *How God Meets Our Three Most Basic Need*

# The QUEST FOR SIGNIFICANCE

*If we asked 5 people 'what makes life fulfilling', what might they say?*

### Realize Your Significance to God

*Based on the following verses, how important are you to God?*

- *"While we (you) were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)*
- *"Because of His love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children - this was His pleasure and purpose." (Eph.1: 5)*

He wants you to enjoy life, not just endure it.

### Purpose is Experienced Though What We Do: Love, Care...

#### The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

1) Identify all the characters in this story. Just for fun, reflect on whom you most resemble. Why?

2) In this uncaring, unloving world, how are people 'beat up' today?

3) Discuss... who you would say is your "neighbor"?

4) Jesus said the greatest commandment was: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. And the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30.31)

Why do you think God associated these 2 verses together?

5) Who are some people you would nominate for the “Good Samaritan Award” in your neighborhood; in your life?

What do you think makes a Good Samaritan really ‘good’?

Our significance lies in allowing ourselves to be a channel of His love!

- Loving and caring about others in place of selfish ambition.
- Caring for others serves as a great relational bridge to sharing the Good News you have received.
- Our waking hours would be simplified by regularly asking Jesus how He would want to love others through us.

### Significance is Realized as we Love, Care... and Share

Jesus came to “*Seek and to save the lost*”. Now he does it through us.

- “*Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” (Mark 1:17)
- “*You must tell everyone what you have seen and heard.*” (Acts 22:15)
- “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (Matthew 28:19,20)
- God “*added to their number daily those who were being saved*”. (Acts 2:47)

11 As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” 12 Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” (Romans 10: 11-15 NLT)

**NOTE:** Verse 15 is a quote from Isaiah 52:7. It refers to those who brought good news to the Israelites who were being held captive in Babylon that they were soon to be released. Here it is applied to those who share the Gospel (Good News) to release from the captivity of sin.

6) Discuss the steps (or process) involved in someone being “saved”? Verses 14-15... circle the verbs (action words) that identify the process.

7) How has the Good News become really ‘good’ in your life?

8) Who can you reach out to with love, caring and with a desire to share Jesus with?

### Wrap Up:

You are significant to God in Jesus Christ. How does this lesson apply to you personally? To ministry among your Life group? To your influence in helping a non-believer come to follow Christ?

Prayer: How can we help one another through prayer today?