

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 27: God's Purposes

- What will be written on your gravestone?
- What should be written on your gravestone?

### 1. **Today, we're going to take look at an epitaph from Scripture that we need to strive to make our own.**

#### **Acts 13:36**

- His list of failures is probably longer than most, but he still was able to serve God's purposes.
- That should give us a measure of hope!!

#### **V. 36 == There is not a higher goal is there?**

- How's that going to be so for us?
- It's one thing to mess up, but it's another thing to mess up on purpose.
- In the context of doing something right, doing it on purpose makes it even better!!
- When all is said and done, I wonder if God will ask us, "Did you do it on purpose?"
  - Did you live your life on purpose?
  - Did you live your life by default or by design?
  - Was it your intent to fulfill My purposes or your own in the brief time you had on earth?

### 2. **Probably need to make a distinction here between God serving our purposes and us serving God's purposes.**

- Too many times we get this mixed up; in fact, sometimes God serving our purpose is the motivating factor behind a lot of our spirituality.
- This spiritual current comes to the surface when God doesn't come through on what we want.
- We feel slighted—we feel betrayed **"Where is God when I need Him?"**
- We've got it all backwards: God does not exist to serve our purposes; we exist to serve His.
- Listen to these verses: **Phil. 1:21, Rom. 7:4, II Cor. 5:15**

### 3. **To serve God's purposes requires a focus shift—it's easy to say, "God I want to serve your purposes", but let's count the cost of having a godly epitaph.**

#### **1. A shift in our thinking from just local to global.**

- **Acts 1:8** "You will be My witnesses....to the ends of the world."
- **Matt. 28:19a**
- What are you doing to fulfill that mission? Your mission?

#### Actions:

1. Pray for Missions
2. Pay for Missions
3. Go on Missions

#### **4. A shift in our thinking from temporal to eternal values.**

- Two places to check out our values is pocketbook and calendars.
- The American dream is not necessarily biblical

#### **Matt. 6:19-20**

#### **5. A shift in our thinking from security to service.**

- The ways God leads aren't always logical and safe.
- God makes plans for our lives based on eternity not time.

#### **6. A shift in our thinking from comfort to sacrifice.**

- What would it take to reach the Hesbollah of Lebanon or the Palestinians of the Gaza strip or the Shiite of Afghanistan? The same things that reached a hardened militant pagan world of Paul's day --- the blood of martyrs.

#### **V. 36** – requires service and sacrifice.

-- requires living on purpose.