

God has a purpose and plan for your life. It’s time to let your purpose shine!

Today we celebrate the work that Jesus did on the cross and the fact that Jesus didn’t just die to pay the price for our sins, but he rose from the dead to give us life and light!

- **John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.**
- **John 8:2 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

This resurrection life that Jesus breaths into us when we believe in him and receive him as our savior, begins to shine in us as his children of light. **John 12:36 Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.”**

With the light of Jesus shining in us, we have a responsibility to discover and walk in our purpose he has for us.

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

I believe everyone wants two things:

1. Everyone wants to have a close relationship with Christ Jesus.
2. Everyone wants to discover and fulfill God’s purpose for their lives.

But what do you believe? Does God have a special purpose for you?

Does God intend for your life to be filled with meaning?

Are you born with a specific destiny which God wants to prepare you for and then unfold for you?

Or are you destined to work a job you hate for the next 40 years, and then retire with a gold watch?

Could there be more to life than making enough money to survive?

Was life meant to be mediocre and meaningless?

God either has a special destiny for you,

or He doesn’t.

God either has a life of fulfillment, meaning, and purpose for you,

or He doesn’t.

You are destined to make a difference in this generation,

or you’re not.

Your life is important,

or it isn’t.

We will answer and settle these questions once and for all in this series, “Shine On Purpose”.

But I will tell you right now, Jesus didn’t do all that he did for you, all that we are celebrating here today on this Easter Sunday, and not have a special plan and purpose for your life.

Two Sons of Purpose

Jesus told a story of two sons who had a very loving father who wanted the best for each of his sons. The Father wanted his sons to discover and shine in their purpose. Both sons were given equal opportunities to fulfill their purpose, but they went in two very different directions.

The Younger Son of Purpose

Luke 15:11-19 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to

a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

Have you ever been there? Have you ever found yourself lost and far from God? Did all you want to do was go home? Well, here is some good news! There is a loving Father calling you home.

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The Loving Searching Father

Luke 15:20-24 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (How did the father see him? The Father was searching for his lost son.)

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

You may be like the lost son of purpose today. You feel far from God, but you are willing to come home. The good news is that you will be received with open arms! The Father is searching for you because he loves you. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you more than He loves you right now. Nothing you can do to make him love you less. You are valuable to Him.

This parable is the third in a series of three that Jesus told back-to-back to drive home the point, that "Lost People Matter to God!" Common threads in all three parables:

1. "Something of **great value** was lost."
2. "The lost item was so valuable that it warranted **an all-out search**."
3. "There was **great rejoicing** when the lost item was found."

Like the loving father in this story, your heavenly Father has launched an all-out search for you and He is asking you to come home. When you do, there is going to be great joy in the house!

One of the greatest tragedies in this story is that the first son in not living according to his potential and purpose. This is not what his father wanted for him, and it wasn't what the son wanted for himself.

God has a purpose for your life, and He wants you to live your life on purpose. To shine your purpose into our world. You may have taken the freedom and prosperity that God has given you, your share, and totally wasted it. You may have been living your life with no purpose at all.

But Jesus is searching for you. He is calling you, "Come home, come home."

[Housefires - Coming Home https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbZzFXzi2Eq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbZzFXzi2Eq) **SALVATION CALL**

The Older Son of Purpose

Luke 15:25-32 "Meanwhile, **the older son** was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him **what was going on**. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years **I've been slaving for you** and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

It's pretty obvious that the younger son was not living according to his father's plan and purpose, but what about the older son? Was he living his life on purpose?

He Was a Hard Worker. **Luke 15:25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field.** He was a hard worker. He was working in the field. But I know a lot of people who are hard workers, but they are not shining their purpose.

- **Verse 12** states that the father divided his property **between them**, so I must ask myself, "Why is the older brother out working in the field. Shouldn't he be managing what was given to him and leading the family business into the future? Wouldn't the father want him to be living with a higher purpose and calling?"

He Didn't Know What Was Going On? **Luke 15:25-32 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.**

It concerns me that the older son had to ask a servant, "What is going on?"

- Did he not know that his father had launched an all-out search for his younger brother?
- Was he not a part of the search, and was he unaware of the updates and progress?

Children of purpose are more than just servants or hired hands. **John 15:15-16 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."**

He Became Angry. When he learned what had happen... **"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. (V. 28)**

The reason I know the older son was not living out his purpose was because, rather than loving what his father loved, he became angry.

He was self-centered. He was thinking only of what he didn't receive rather than rejoicing when his lost brother was found. His brother was as good as dead, but now he was alive and well.

His statement in verse 30 revealed again that he really didn't love his brother like the father loved him. **But when this son of yours (not my brother whom I love) who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"**

He certainly didn't understand that one of the greatest joys in life is helping others discover their divine purpose and destiny as well.

He Was Obedient. He said in verse **29 ...'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.**

He was obedient but he viewed himself more as a slave taking orders than as a son of purpose who was loved unconditionally and given everything he needed to let his purpose shine.

Everything I Have Is Yours

I believe that today God wants us all to hear this statement that the father made to his oldest son.

Luke 15:31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

If everything that the father had was at the son's disposal, shouldn't he have been living his life with purpose? If everything that Father God has is ours, shouldn't we be Shining our Purpose?

The resurrection life that we are celebrating today is given freely to you and me.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

The Father has filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. He has gifted you, **not so you can live a meaningless life**, but hee has empowered you for a purpose.

The tragedy would be for us to live a meaningless life when we have been called to live our lives on purpose. It would be shameful for us to waste what God has given us.

God is saying to us today, **“Everything I have is yours! Now, Shine On Purpose.”**

In the next few weeks, we are going to go on a journey together to discover God’s purpose and divine destiny for our lives.

It will be an exciting time together, and it will be time when Christ Jesus is going to speak to you and reveal His plans and purposes for your life.

But just like the prodigal son had to come to his senses and fall into the loving arms of his Father to fulfill his purpose, we the older sons need to do the same.

For you and I to fulfill our purpose, to shine on purpose, we must daily run to the arms of the Father.

Prayer of repentance and commitment to Shine on Purpose.

Song Three

Cody Carnes - Run To The Father <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTHS4W1bPj8>