

Let's Discuss...Purpose

PART 6 *Idolising Purpose & Success*



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Scriptures mentioned:

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7 NLT

The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

the
Discipleship
project

Summary

Is it possible to "idolise" purpose? Othniel mentions how we sometimes pursue our purpose more than we pursue God. We also talk about how although society tends to celebrate recognition and financial wealth, these are not necessarily the best markers of success.

Let's Discuss...

- What does it mean to "idolise" purpose? If you're being honest with yourself, can you think of a time when you've done this, and if so, what was the fruit of that way of thinking in your life?
- Jake talks about how we often celebrate certain types of success and assume that that's what it looks like to live in purpose. How would you distinguish between success by the world's standards and a biblical definition of success? When we look at followers of God in Scripture, does godly success always lead to wealth and other people's applause?
- Is it possible for us to live God's purpose for our lives and not appear to be successful? Why or why not?
- Sharon asks, "Why do some people lead lives that lead to wealth and "success" and others have purpose that lead to lives of "ordinariness"?" What other words do you associate with the idea of ordinariness? Does the Bible promote or discourage the idea of being ordinary?
- It can be difficult to watch other people be "successful" while we're doing something that doesn't feel as celebrated. How can we guard our hearts from comparison, bitterness or jealousy and continue to live with peace and contentment?

Let's Pray...

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- As we grow in our understanding of God's purposes for our lives, let's ask Him to give us His eyes to see and understand success from a godly perspective. Let's allow Him to eliminate any misconceptions that we have of what success should look like and replace them with His ideas of success. As we begin to learn this, let's ask for opportunities to celebrate godly success in the lives of those around us.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **Counterfeit Gods** by Tim Keller [book]
- **The Imitation of Christ** by Thomas à Kempis [book]