

“Purpose over Popularity”

Living for the approval of people keeps you from the purposes of God.

It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NLT)

The Power of Purpose

Purpose diminishes distractions.

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained - though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono.

But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

Nehemiah 6:1-3 (NLT)

Purpose pushes you through the pain.

He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

Luke 22:41-44 (NLT)

Purpose empowers you to please God.

But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.

Acts 5:29 (NLT)

We can't please everyone, but we can please God.

SO WHAT?

He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

Hebrews 11:26 (NLT)

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Jock, nerd, rocker, gangsta, gamer, stoner, cheerleader – which high school stereotype would people say described you? (for fun have the group guess first then let the person answer)

2. Have you ever been called a 'people pleaser'? Why or Why not?

3. Re-read Hebrews 11:24-26. Was there a time in your life where you had to choose purpose over comfort

4. Re-read Nehemiah 6:1-3. What 'great work' are you engaged in in your life right now?

What is the greatest distraction to your great work that you need to say "I cant come down!"

5. What parts of your life are painful right now?

How can your purpose help push you through the pain?

6. Answer these questions and share with your group:

My main purpose is _____

My big distraction is _____

My greatest pain is _____

To choose to live my purpose I will _____
