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For Such a Time as This

A Decade on Purpose

Esther 4:1-17

Pastor Mark Kremer

Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with their song still inside." I think, if you look at the history of the world and the culture of people around us, we would have to agree that that is mostly true—that people lead lives of quiet desperation. And that song that was put inside by God, that purpose, that sense of mission, that identity that God has given to each human being, often goes to the grave unsung. I don't think that's the way God intended it to be. We look back in Genesis—in the beginning—and how God created things, and we see that certainly wasn't the case. He designed us to be in relationship with Him, to have a rich and full and meaningful life and to sing the song that He put within each and every person. And as we talk about that often here, while that was lost because of this curse of sin, God set out to restore that sense of purpose and mission that gives meaning to life. That takes away the desperation and ultimately that was accomplished through Christ on the cross—that His death and resurrection on our behalf took away the curse of sin and brought us into life so that we can be fully alive and have a sense of meaning and purpose to our life. That song that God put within us can be sung here and now and for all of eternity. It's living out this sense of destiny and purpose that God intended each and every person to have. We are so passionate here at Lincoln Berean to help people fulfill that purpose for which God created them. Our mission is to present every person complete in Christ which means that we grow to become not only more and more intimate with God and to know Him in a deeper way but, beyond that, to find that purpose, that mission in our life that fulfills that very purpose for which God created us. We talk about that quite a bit. In fact we launched just a little over a year ago what we call our *Decade on Purpose* vision. And that included six different initiatives that over the course of this next decade, from 2010 to 2020, we believe that God is calling us to reach out and to do some new things to fulfill His purpose for us together as a church.

One of those initiatives is our desire that every single person within our church would develop their own personal mission—that they would understand the call of God on their life, on your life. And that we would, over these next ten years, live that purpose, that mission, out to the very fullest—that we wouldn't look back on these ten years and have one moment of regret, that we would have fulfilled and accomplished the mission that God assigned to us for this particular stage of our life. We gave you opportunity last fall to begin to process that. We've had a couple of classes to engage people in that. But we wanted to take a little bit more time this morning to see what it takes for a person to become fully alive, fully on mission, fully singing the song that God has put within them.

Now this is going to be just a little bit different service this morning because we are going to ask you to very actively participate. If you have a pen or a pencil with you this morning, you are going to need it because we are actually going to give you the opportunity a little bit later to do some thinking and some writing about what your mission might be or at least to find out what your mission is.

When we look in the Scriptures, there are a number of people I think who could model for us what it means to be a person on mission. We want to look at a couple of individuals out of the same book in the Old Testament. They were actually cousins and two cousins who actually found their mission

and lived it out—and God did absolutely amazing things through these two individuals! The story is in the book of Esther in the Old Testament. I invite you to take your Bibles and turn to Esther. We're going to look at the heart of this story and hopefully draw some very important principles from Esther and her cousin Mordecai for finding our own purpose in life. We're going to start in Chapter 4 in just a minute.

Here are just a couple of notes about the book of Esther and a little background on the story. First of all, Esther is one of two books in the Bible where God's name isn't mentioned at all. You won't find any mention of God in the book of Esther and yet it's in the Scriptures. There are a lot of different thoughts as to why that is. I think that during this particular time, in the five hundred year period before the coming of Christ, God was largely silent to the people of Israel. And I think that silence is evidenced here in this book. I don't think there is any outward sign of God but what is clear from this book is that God was at work. God was on the scene; God was orchestrating events; God was positioning people. God, even though seemingly silent, was very much active. I think there is a relevance in that to our lives. Sometimes it may feel to you that God is silent, that God in your life and what you do day after day after day really doesn't seem to have this clear voice speaking into it from God. Yet I think we need to come to the understanding that the sovereign God is working through all of our circumstances in all of our life to accomplish His purpose and He is there.

Another interesting note about Esther is this is the book where one of the Jewish festivals that is still celebrated today—Purim—was started here. That was the foundation of the festival that celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people here in this Persian Empire. Interestingly enough, Hitler and the Nazis banned both the owning and reading of the book of Esther. In fact it was a capital offense if you were found, as a Christian or a Jew, to own or read a copy of the book of Esther. In fact Hitler and several of those who were his policy makers so identified with Haman, the evil person in this plot, that they saw their own defeat as another celebration of Purim—the victory of the Jews over their enemies—and that's just a fascinating little side note.

Now whenever you look into a story and you see the sort of significant decision points that we're going to look at this morning, we have to first understand there's a whole lot of life leading up to that particular moment in a person's life when it all becomes clear. I would call it the sovereign foundations of life. For Esther those sovereign foundations included the fact that she was born into exile some one hundred twenty-five years after Israel had been carried off into the Babylon captivity, now under the Persians. King Xerxes or Ahasuerus, the name given to him here in Esther, is the ruler of the empire. It's an empire that stretched from Africa all the way to India and the nation of Israel was under his empire. One hundred twenty-seven provinces were in his empire. It's significant that Esther was born as an exile into that particular thing. She was born a Jew. We learn a number of other things about Esther from the opening chapters of this book. We learn that she was very beautiful and that beauty ultimately attracted the attention of the king. That was part of what God used to bring her to become the queen, to replace the other queen that reigned previously to her. But it was the beauty that God had created. That had nothing to do with Esther. That was just God's design of her but that was part of her life.

Esther also had a story. Esther we are told here in the opening chapters that her parents died, and so she was raised by her cousin who must have been somewhat older than her. Her cousin was Mordecai. They lived in Susa, the capital, and I think it's very significant that Esther was connected to her cousin and that together, then, they went on this adventure that God led them on that ultimately brought them to becoming both the heart and the brains of the Persian empire, even

though they were exiles—they were foreigners in this land. All of that is a part of Esther's story. We also come to this moment where Esther and Mordecai make their greatest contribution because of this evil aide to King Ahasuerus by the name of Haman. Haman was very proud and arrogant and Mordecai would not bow to him, would not do the homage that he thought he was due. It wasn't enough just to hate Mordecai; Haman hated all of Mordecai's people. He found out that Mordecai was a Jew and so he hated all of the Jews and so he sought to kill them. In fact he had the king, rather inadvertently, I think the king didn't realize what he was doing but he had the king issue an edict that on a certain day all the Jews would be wiped out and would be killed in every province, from one end to the other. I think that's kind of where we find Mordecai and Esther when we pick up the story here in Chapter 4. I say all of that to remind us that I think the first principle for each one of us finding our personal mission is to look at the sovereign foundations of our life.

You see the roots of your personal mission are found in the sovereign foundations of your life. Your mission is rooted in the times in which you were born. You and I live in the twenty-first century; we live in this particular era. We live in a particular part of the world; we live in the United States and with that comes all kinds of things that are part of who we are. We have a culture; we live in a particular city that has its own culture here in the Midwest and we also have together, here this morning, a shared experience as a church—we experience the same thing; we hear the same teaching. All of that is a part of a historic setting of your life. It's not an accident that you are here in this particular time and place and point in human history. God placed you here in this city and at this time He placed you in this church. That is where God has put you and that is part of where your mission is going to flow out of. You also have a particular and unique design; you were designed by God, different from anyone else. There is no one else just like you and so that is a very unique expression of God to the world. He created you with particular abilities, a particular personality, all of the things that are a part of your original design, made by God. That is a part of the sovereign foundations of your life.

Each and every one of us here this morning has a story. We've had a journey that has brought us to this particular point. It has a lot of different aspects; it has to do with our families we are raised in; it includes the experiences we have had along the way and it includes the good things, the joyous things and it includes the very hard and difficult things. It also includes probably a lot of interruptions, things that just sort of appear that altered the reality of your life—and you never expected it. All of that is there as a sovereign foundation for your mission. None of that is an accident; none of that is a mistake. Just as all of that prepared Esther and Mordecai for this moment, so it's true in your life. All the things that have happened, the good and the bad, have been a part of preparing you for God's purpose for your life in this next stage or season.

Now I think we spend a lot of time—we waste a lot of time—trying to run away from our past, run away from our story, hating who we are. We spend a lot of time wishing we were somebody else. Sometimes we wish we would have lived in another time and another place, where we fit in better. The reality is we just need to stop all of that and embrace the sovereign foundation that is your life and recognize that God is all over those foundations—they are sovereign foundations. That was true in Esther's life and Mordecai's life and it's true in your life and my life. It is the beginning of finding your sense of mission and calling. It flows out of those sovereign foundations.

Now as I mentioned, Haman had issued this edict that all of the Jews at a certain point in the future were to be killed and that is where we pick up the story. Actually I am going to have us start in Chapter 3 and verse 15:

> **The couriers went out impelled by the king's command while the decree was issued at the citadel in Susa the capital; and while the king and Haman sat down to drink, the city of Susa was in confusion. When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly. He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. And in each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.** (*NASB, Esther 3:15 – 4:3)

This was a time of deep distress because an entire people were about to be wiped off the face of the earth. There was immense evil in the land. There was a wicked man, Haman, who had plotted this evil deed and here the edict had been issued and so there was a cry by the people who were in great distress because their lives were about to come to an end. And the wailing and the weeping could be heard all across the kingdom. Even in the very capital of Susa, among non-Jews, we get a sense that this edict caused a great deal of confusion in the population. That word **confusion** really gives us the idea of aimless wandering, not knowing what to do. In other words the entire population of the empire was up in arms. They didn't know what to do; they were confused by this edict. Where did it come from? Why is it here? Why is this evil happening and what are we supposed to do about it? It was into this evil time and in this particular moment in history, where these evil deeds were unfolding, that Esther finds herself as the queen, right next to the king. Mordecai begins to grasp: I think that certainly God is in this somehow, that there isn't a mistake that Esther is the queen. He begins to wail and weep and put on sackcloth and ashes right outside the gates of the palace because he wants to get Esther's attention. Evidently Esther has just gotten so wrapped up in the luxury of life in the palace and being the queen and all that went with that, that she was completely unaware that she and all the rest of her people were about to be wiped off the face of the earth. So Mordecai becomes this prophetic voice to Esther, to begin to remind her that there is evil in the world, that there is something amiss and that something needs to be done about it—and so we find Mordecai at the gate.

I think we are reminded in these verses in fact that our mission is always related to the very real needs of the world. We live in a world that is full of confusion and crime. A lot of times it's very visible. It's the crime that comes in disasters; it's the crime that comes with abuse. It's the kind of pain and loss that sin produces in our culture, but sometimes it's that quiet desperation. It isn't that wailing and weeping out loud but it's that quiet desperation that people live in because they are suffering deeply and in pain. There is confusion and it's all around us and sometimes we're just unaware. We are just going on about our life and we seem almost oblivious to the needs of the world and the suffering all around us. And sometimes it takes a prophetic voice to remind us that there are real needs that need to be met. There is real pain and sorrow; there is real confusion. There are those prophetic voices we need that remind us that our mission is about meeting those real needs, about taking action to do something about the sin and the evil and the mess that's in the world all around us. Ultimately your personal mission and my personal mission is the intersection of the sovereign roots of my life and the pressing needs of the world. Where those two things meet is where we find our mission. You see who you are, all that you are, all that you have, all that you have experienced, comes face to face with the pressing, real dire needs of the world. We find mission; we find a calling from God. But we need to listen and pay attention to the needs that are around us that we too, just like in Esther's time—although there may not be an edict that has been ordered or issued to wipe people off the face of the earth—there are people dying; they are dying all around us—very real needs. Mission is about addressing the very real needs of the world. Verse 4:

Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

That's very interesting because at first, when we read Verse 4, we think: Okay, great! Esther gets it. She's writhing in pain. It's the word that would describe intense physical agony; it's a word that is often used to describe childbirth. This is an intense pain and you can just kind of see her writhing and rolling around when she hears that Mordecai is out wailing by the gate. And we think: Well, man, maybe Esther's waking up. She's wailing because of this evil. But, no, what she is wailing about—we know because of what she did—is she sent clothes out to clothe Mordecai and she said, "Stop it. Stop making a scene; stop embarrassing me. Stop disrupting my life. Can't you see I am the queen; I have a wonderful, nice life and you're really messing with it? This is very disruptive. The dream that I am living here—the fairytale—this is the life that now I have come to know and experience in the palace. Put some clothes on and go home!"

Mordecai will have nothing to do with those clothes. He rejected them; he sent them back. You see what Esther is facing here and dealing with is a step that each and every one of us has to face if we are ever really going to get on mission. And that is we have to come face to face with our own self-interest, our own selfishness. We have to die to self and Esther here is experiencing that process of dying to self, to her comfortable little life, to the nice, safe place where she is. It's an experience that everyone who is going to get on mission is going to have to go through because mission calls us outside of ourselves. It causes us to live for other things, for something bigger than us. It is that realization that life isn't all about me and that can be very disruptive because we are born pretty much thinking life is all about me.

Richard Stearns who is the president and CEO of World Vision, one of the largest relief organizations in the world was, prior to this role, the CEO and President of the Lennox China Corporation. It was a very profitable and successful company. He is a Christian man who was active in his church. He was doing things for the Lord and suddenly he became challenged to consider the role of leading World Vision. In his own words he said, "In my own life, success, the prestige of my career, the admiration that I felt from others because of it, and the financial prosperity that came with it, had become more and more important to my identity." See I think that is what happens to us. I think that we kind of get lulled into our comfortable life and it takes something to wake us up. The prophet speaks and people call to us and we suddenly realize: You know if I am really going to live the adventure, if I'm really going to sing the song, then it's going to require me to get outside of myself, to stop making it all about me. And Richard explains how, over a number of months, it was God who helped him process through that and kind of get him to the point where he took that role. Just a few months later he found himself in Africa and in multiple countries, among the poorest of the poor, where just a few months before he had been in a very comfortable, safe place in his company. Now not everyone is called to leave their company, but I think everyone is called to move beyond themselves to live for something bigger than us. I think Esther is going through that very painful process. Verse 5:

Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend to her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate. And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been

> **issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her and to order her to go into the king and to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people. And Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.** (Vs.5-9)

We have to give Esther credit. There is movement in her life. She's moved beyond herself at least to the point of saying, "Teach me more. Tell me more about what's going on." She asked, "Why?" and "What?" She's willing now to listen and understand what is happening in the land and so Mordecai fills her in on all the details that are unfolding in the land around her. That's a very important part of our finding our mission. Just like Esther, to ultimately fulfill her mission, she had to understand what the situation was and what the needs were and what she could do about it.

There is another step for us and that is we need to find or seek clarification, get information, and we find that by listening and learning. Again we need to find other people to speak to us in order for us to understand. A lot of times we are moved emotionally to some level about the needs of the world, about the people around us, but we don't really have a good understanding of what's going on and what needs to be done. So we need other people to help us and come alongside, to teach us so we can learn and understand. We try to provide a number of those experiences for us here, just to understand what the needs of the world are. That is why we do the *Ultimate Spring Break* trip every year and take people to various parts of the world to see and understand what God is doing and what is happening and what the needs are. A few months ago both the *Church Unleashed* ministry and the *Empty Nest* ministry rented a bus and took a lot of people from our church all around the city to all the agencies that serve the poorest and neediest of our community, just to get them a very firsthand look at what the needs in our community are. Take advantage of those things. If you want to find your mission, if you want to understand where God might be calling you, you have to understand more than probably what you do today. You need to get clarification about what the real needs are.

Esther has the wisdom to invite Mordecai's influence into her life to understand both the situation and what she could do about it. Verse 10:

> **Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." And they related Esther's words to Mordecai. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place but you and your father's house will perish."** (Vs. 10-14a)

What Esther begins to realize when she finds out what Mordecai wants her to do—which is for her to go in and speak to the king—she suddenly comes face to face with the risk. There is always a risk in living a life of mission. You will never have an adventure if you stay where it is safe. There is always risk involved in mission and here Esther is assessing the risk and her assessment is it's exceedingly high. I have the very likelihood of being killed if I go into the king unsummoned by him, and I haven't been summoned in a long time. This is a very risky thing you are asking me to do. And Mordecai responds to Esther, "Yes, it's very risky but there is an even greater risk if you don't get on mission. You're going to be—you are under the same edit—you are likely going to be destroyed yourself. But more than that, if you don't act and fulfill the mission and the purpose God

has for you, someone else will fill it. But you and the generations to come will be not remembered; literally your family will be remembered no more. You will be wiped off the face of the earth. God will find someone else to fulfill His mission and purpose, but you lose."

There is always risk in mission. Fear is the number one enemy of you and me in living on mission. Because it calls us to stretch, to get beyond ourselves, to go out and do something that we have not done before, to live in a different way, to serve others when we have been serving ourselves. There is always risk but I remind you, just as it was for Esther, there is a greater risk of doing nothing—the risk of literally having a life of meaninglessness, going to the grave with the song unsung and ultimately, standing before God and God says, "Here's what I gave you; here's the talent and story; here's the opportunity; here's the need of the world that you have lived in, what did you do with it?" To stand empty-handed and say, "I did nothing," is a sad day of loss, as the Scripture says. There is always risk involved but the risk is worth it, for there is a much larger purpose at stake. Second half of Verse 14, Mordecai speaking still…

...and who knows whether you have not obtained royalty for such a time as this.

This is that phrase, that moment here in the story that we all remember…**for such a time as this.** What Mordecai is saying is—he brings it all together at that point in time where—he is calling Esther to embrace God's larger purpose in her life. Everything that has happened in the past has all been in preparation for this moment and perhaps this is the very moment that she was brought into existence for, to do something significant in God's larger purpose. **For such a time as this...** perhaps, you have obtained royalty.

There is that moment for each and every one of us where we have to decide. Do we choose to embrace God's larger purpose for our life, that we are not going to just live a conventional existence but, instead, we are going to step into the world of mission and purpose and we are going to embrace the fact that my ordinary life can have a profound and significant impact on the world and on eternity.

A couple of months ago my dad related to me that he had been to a funeral of an elderly woman in our community. All of her sons were there and this is a family that had worked for us many, many years ago. There was a sense that the entire family was a Christian family and that was not how we kind of remembered them growing up. One of the sons came to my dad and said, "You know, you need to convey to Mark that in second grade he shared about Jesus with me on the playground at school. I remembered that in years later when I became a Christian and then my wife and then my brothers and sisters and then my parents. Now our whole family is Christian and I traced it all the way back." This was right after I'd become a Christian and I had a little New Testament and I was like a little zealot—I was out there in the tunnels. Nobody told me how to do it; I was just so excited I shared John 3:16 with him. And now to think that thirty, forty years later—shoot, more than that—forty-five years later: a family. Does your life—even the simplest things—have a profound impact on eternity? Absolutely,"Yes!" Every day, every moment, as long as you understand we are on a mission. It's a mission given to us by God and there is a particular way that you and I are called to live that mission—just as Esther is called here to live a particular mission in her life. We have to, ultimately, if we are going to live our life on mission, we have to embrace God's larger purpose to us. He's got something significant that He has called us to do. Verse 15:

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days or nights. I and my maidens

also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." (Vs. 15-16)

Ultimately Esther came to the point where she had to commit. She made a decision to act and that is a significant point for each and every one of us. We can sit around and dream about it and think about it and ponder it and wonder about it and plan for it. But at some point, if we are ever going to live a life on mission, we've got to choose to act. We've got to decide to go for it. We've got to make that commitment to engage. Esther made that commitment and she said, "You know it doesn't really matter what anybody thinks, what anybody does or whether my life is taken or not. I am going to act. This is my mission; this is my assignment from God. No one or nothing is going to stop me from living that mission."

That's a significant point that each and every one of us has to come to. No more delays, no more excuses. Just like all those people came to Jesus when He said, "Come and follow me," and they said, "Well let me go bury my father. Why don't you wait until a little bit later? Wait until after fishing season," and you know all these excuses that people come up with. Or maybe, "Someday I'll get on mission." At some point it all comes down to deciding to act, to get involved. Perhaps that day is here today for you.

One other key principle here in these verses, and that is that mission always involves partnership, and two partnerships in particular. The first is clearly with God. We are partners with God. Esther understood that they needed to pray and ask God's favor because if anything was going to come out of this, God was going to have to move in the heart of the king. God was going to have to be in the the story. It's a very important reminder for us that we should never try to do what only God can do. Being on mission is not about going out and trying to make things happen that are outside of our ability to make them happen. We can't change a heart. We can't change a life. We probably can't change, in our own human efforts, the course of history. But what we can do is be partnered with God, invite God into our mission and then believe that God is going to be acting and moving behind the scenes to accomplish His purpose. We are partners with God and that is a very important thing for us to remember on mission. Don't try to do on your own what only God can do.

And then she invites others to be a part of this with her. She understood that Mordecai was going to play a significant part of seeing this happen. She invited all of the Jews to pray and fast with her and she also invited her maidens to come alongside. We understand that if we are going to live a life on mission, then we are going to have to partner with lots of other people to do it. And I think the principle here is this: Never try to do by yourself what is best done with others. God doesn't need a bunch of lone-rangers going off doing this and doing that by themselves, doing their own thing. No, we're called to come together with others of similar passion and vision but different gifts and talents, and together we can fulfill that mission and purpose. So we need to connect with others and if we understand our mission, we do it along and in partnership with both God and others.

Well, in just a couple of minutes I am going to share with you what ultimately came out of that obedience of Esther that day—about what the results were. But we want to give you a few minutes this morning to actually think about this journey, this process, and what it is that God is calling you to do over the next ten years of your life. Maybe you can't write a mission statement for the rest of your life but I think we can at least say in the next stage of my life—the season immediately in front of me—based on who I am and my whole story and the needs that are all around me. What does God seems to be speaking to my heart; what is it that I want to do by 2020? What is it that I want to believe that God wants to do through me in the next ten years? I'm going to ask the ushers to come

down and, if you didn't get one of these cards when you came in, I'm going to ask them to come down and work their way back and give you a card. We're going to give you a few minutes to write this morning what it is that God would be saying to you that you need to be involved in. Maybe it's just taking another step to clarify that mission. But I want to ask you to just spend these moments—this is not just an add-on to the service—we want you to really seriously consider what it is that you need to be doing to be on mission with your life. What is it that God is calling you to do? Write a couple of those things down. Maybe it's one thing; maybes it's two things; don't make it a long list. But what is your life supposed to be about? Why has God brought you to this particular point? And then, in just a few minutes, the music is going to play. You write; you think; and then I'll come up and conclude the message and we'll have a closing song.

As you read through the rest of Esther, not only did the king hold out the golden scepter to her when Esther came in but, over the course of the next days, the entire situation was reversed and the evil person Haman was actually hung on the gallows that he had designed for Mordecai. And Mordecai and Esther saw not only the salvation of the Jews of that day, but they were elevated to reign in the kingdom. Both Mordecai and Esther for years sought the welfare of not only their own people but also sought the welfare of the entire nation and saw God dramatically use them to bring peace and joy to an entire empire. And even more than that because, through Esther the Jews were saved, the Messiah came some five hundred years later. So Esther's actions—her mission—actually is part of the reason you and I sit here today, knowing Jesus and having our lives transformed. Because she lived her mission—the assignment given to her by God—she fulfilled it and she did it by the power and grace of God.

We would like to ask you, if you have some thoughts about what that is for you, to write those on one half and the ushers will take those from you at the door or you can turn them in over the next coming weeks. We just want to be partners with you. We just want to be excited with you about what God is calling you to do. We want to help connect you with other folks who are on a similar mission. There are also two other things. One is, if you are still trying to figure this out, you know, "What is my life story and where is all leading and where is my purpose really at for the coming decade?" we have a class starting on April 13, Wednesday night, called *My Life on Purpose* and it will have a little bit more time to process and engage in that and we invite you to join us there.

And if you have some ideas and you have some thoughts but you want to learn more, I would encourage you to stop by our *Church Unleashed* booth out here this morning on both the 100 and 200 levels and just inquire about where are there opportunities, where are there needs? Maybe there is something that God has put on your heart and you don't know exactly what it is or maybe you just don't even know where there are opportunities. So we invite you to stop and visit with them as well. But I pray that each and every one of us would find that sense of call and mission from God and that our lives would be fully lived out and sung and we will go to the grave rejoicing that we have fulfilled the mission that God has given us.

> *Father, may that be true. May each of us have a clear understanding from You exactly what it is You are calling us to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
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