

Digging for Treasure

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT).

Recently our church launched a campaign called Purpose Driven Life based on the book by Rick Warren. I had devoted my time to several other commitments and initially didn't want to participate by opening up my home to host a group. Nevertheless, God wanted me to get involved... so I did. I invited lots of people but I knew there were certain ones God specifically wanted to be there. As a result, several women whom I had very little or no contact with committed to attend my group. I noticed something about myself during the weeks that followed. I was ecstatic and genuinely happy when these women arrived. Why? I enjoyed talking about Christ—watching the faces of these women light up with understanding and hope. I took so much pleasure in sitting down and sharing the goodness and faithfulness of God with them. I shared my feelings with a close friend by saying “Leading this group, I am in my element. This is what I was born to do—when I talk about Christ something within me comes alive. This truly makes me happy”!

When I was growing up, every Christmas and every birthday I received a toy, game, or book that pertained to something medicinal. My dream was to grow up and become a doctor. My goal was to heal people. All my life I wanted to heal people. Although I received a B.S. in Biology and a M.P.H. in Epidemiology; my life never seemed to feel complete. I was not doing what God created me to do. I was searching for a career, not significance. How many of us do the same thing? Our search to find our so-called 'niche' in life leaves us empty. What we're really longing for has nothing to do with a job, a mate, or social status, but with fulfilling the will of God for our lives.

When we are busy doing what we were created to do there is no room to feel disheartened or deprived because specific desires have not been manifested in our lives. Soul-satisfied people are generally happy people because nothing is more gratifying than knowing what you are called to do and doing it. If you are not doing what God created you to do, you are probably one miserable person. Take a look at the story of Ruth. She was so busy in the fields gathering food that she had no idea Boaz was watching her. Ruth wasn't walking around whining and complaining about what she didn't have. She was busy living and making due with what she did have.

What is your assignment? What visions and dreams has God planted in your heart that you have not cultivated because of fear, selfishness, laziness or just plain oversight? You were created to glorify God. There is something so precious on the inside of each one of us. It doesn't become valuable until we decide to give it away. Ruth gave of her time and energy to feed and minister to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Esther relinquished her fear to stand up for her people. Anna spent hours daily in the temple praying and seeking God. What will you do with what you have been given?

If you don't know what God's divine will for your life is – ASK. I encourage you to go where you have never been before in order to get something you have never had; to be bold and strong and courageous about your desires and communicate them clearly to oth-

ers; and to make your assignment an obsession. Stir up the gifts that are within you. Pray without ceasing, not about the problem but about the solution. But most of all never, never, never quit. Know that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it. You are **Valued**.

Grab It!

1. What do you have a passion for in life? Does it match God's purpose for you?
2. God has a purpose for your life. Do you know what that purpose is?
3. If you know your purpose, are you pursuing the necessary steps to fulfill that purpose?
4. Do you believe that God has placed within you untapped resources? If so, what will you do to draw from what is on the inside of you?

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