

UHPC WORSHIP— 2/3/2019

SERMON TOPIC: BORN, LOVED, & GIFTED WITH PURPOSE

As I turned on the T.V. on Saturday morning I saw an advertisement showing Oprah Winfrey as animated as we know she can be and shouting these words: FIND YOUR PURPOSE!!! My mind went back to the sermon topic I was given on Wednesday. Would you say that Oprah is a woman who seemed to have discovered her purpose? Would you say she is an individual who is gifted...successful...prosperous... and even maybe contented and happy? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER EARLIER LIFE AND EXPERIENCES? WAS HER JOURNEY AN EASY PATH? Some of us know her story of sexual abuse and other hardships in her life. Do you think her difficulties helped to build her strength of character and resolve to push her to where she has arrived? SHE WAS BORN WITH CERTAIN TALENTS AND GIFTS, BUT SOMETHING CAUSED HER TO FIND HER VOICE, STRENGTH, AND DETERMINATION TO BRING IT TO BIRTH AND TO REVEAL HER PURPOSE. The same is true for Dr. Martin Luther King and Mrs. Rosa Parks. For those who watch Christian T.V. this is also true for Mrs. Joyce Myers. SOMETHING IN THEIR LIFE EXPERIENCE IGNITED THEIR GIFTS AND PUSHED THEM TOWARD THEIR PURPOSE. To get to the final fulfillment and use of these gifts it is necessary to the place of forgiveness and even love. JESUS demonstrated this when from the Cross He said: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." THIS WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS HE HAD TO DO. YET IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO DO IT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HIS PURPOSE OF SALVATION FOR HUMANITY, AND ALSO TO TEACH US WHAT WE TOO WILL NEED TO DO TO BE VICTORIOUS AND TO SELF-ACTUALIZE.

So today I invite us to look at the Scriptures that seem to bear out these truths. First in Psalm 71: 1-9, we hear the Psalmist declaring that before he was born out of his mother's womb, he was dependent upon the Almighty for support, for hope, for deliverance, security, and confidence. Others saw him as an example because they saw that he found refuge in God as his fortress and was not disappointed.

Then we heard about Jeremiah, (only a boy) to whom the Spirit spoke audibly to go and to speak as a prophet to kingdoms and nations. But he was afraid and thought he was too young to do such a thing. The LORD told him that BEFORE HE

WAS BORN, HE WAS KNOWN BY GOD AND SELECTED FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE. So, he should not say he was too young, because the Word was implanted in him before he was born. Then the LORD touched his mouth and ACTIVATED his speech and gave him courage to fulfill his purpose. He was told to go and to speak whatever God commanded him to say. Jeremiah was BORN GIFTED AND LOVED FOR A PURPOSE.

LAST but not LEAST, we see Jesus, the Christ, in the synagogue preaching and teaching. After reading the text from Isaiah which said: "I have chosen and anointed One to preach, to teach, to heal, to offer Good News, open the eyes of the blind, and the ear of the deaf..." Then He rolled up the scroll and said: "TODAY THIS PROPHECY IS FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING." Of course, the crowd began to ask: "WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? IS NOT THIS MARY'S AND JOSEPH'S SON?" Jesus knew his PURPOSE AND WAS BEGINNING TO REVEAL IT UNTO THEM, BUT THEY COULD NOT EMBRACE OR ACCEPT IT BECAUSE HE SEEMED LIKE JUST A LOCAL BOY. Isn't that how the human mind still works today? But Jesus knowing their thoughts and intentions, told them that God had chosen some local people for blessing who were not of national Israel, nor could claim to be entitled. He told them how God chose to use the WIDOW AT ZAREPHATH of Sidon to provide food for Elijah, the prophet, during a devastating famine, and she and her son were miraculously fed for the duration of the famine. He also told them about Naaman, the Syrian who, out of all the lepers in Israel, God chose to cleanse him. So, as for what they thought of Him—Jesus,--- "A PROPHET IS NOT WITHOUT HONOR EXCEPT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY." OR maybe they will say: "PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF." They became incensed with anger and began to lead him up to a cliff to throw Him over and kill Him. But Jesus simply walked away from among them. THEY COULD NOT DESTROY HIM FOR THE TIME OF THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PURPOSE HAD NOT YET COME.

If you recall, it was after the death of UZZIAH the king and uncle of Isaiah, that Isaiah SAW the LORD, high and lifted up with His train filling the Temple. He saw angelic presence and worship happening in a vision. He saw his own sin and cried "WOE IS ME FOR I AM A MAN OF UNCLEAN LIPS!" The LORD touched his lips with purifying fire from the altar and activated his prophetic gift to go and speak for God. (You get the point.)

HERE ARE SOME POINTS FOR APPLICATION, AND CONSIDERATION:

--OUR GIFTS MAY BE INBORN BUT LAYING LATENT WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES TO PUSH US TOWARD FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE.

--IT TAKES THE DIVINE INTERVENTION OF GOD, TO ANOINT AND APPOINT THOSE CHOSEN AND GIFTED WITH PURPOSE TO RELEASE THEM AND MOTIVATE THEM TO GO AND ACCOMPLISH THE WORK FOR GOD.

--THE GOD WHO ALLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MOVE US TO DEVELOP OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS, PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO USE THOSE GIFTS.

--ULTIMATELY, THE TEST OF MATURITY AND EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR GIFTS HAPPENS WHEN WE THEY ARE GARNISHED WITH LOVE... LOVE FIRST FOR GOD AND IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD, WITH COURAGE AND FEARLESSNESS TO SPEAK TRUTH ACCORDING TO WHAT GOD HAS PUT IN OUR MOUTH TO SPEAK.

--PAUL TELLS IN 1ST CORINTHIANS 13 THAT WITHOUT LOVE OPERATING WITH OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS, WE CAN BECOME AS SOUNDING BRASS AND TINKLING CYMBALS... EMPTY GONGS. HE TELLS US THAT ALL THESE GIFTS AND TALENTS, SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLES, HEALINGS, PROPHECIES, TEACHING, PREACHING WILL EVENTUALLY PASS AWAY. ONLY LOVE AND WHATEVER IS ANOINED WITH LOVE WILL ENDURE FOREVER.

--THREE THINGS REMAIN... FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE. BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

ARE OUR GIFTS AND PURPOSE CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT TO BE ACTIVATED AND USED? --YES... BUT LET US PRAY FOR OBEDIENCE, COURAGE, AND LOVE-- FIRST FOR GOD, FOR OUR NEIGHBOR, AND FOR SELF. PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GARNISH OUR GIFTS AND FRUITS SO WE MIGHT PRODUCE ABUNDANT FRUIT THAT LAST FOR ETERNITY.

OPRAH AND MANY OTHERS HAVE FOUND THEIR VOICE AND HAVE BEEN USING THEIR GIFTS AND TALENT TO BE A BLESSING TO THE WORLD. IN THAT COMMERCIAL SHE WAS SHOUTING: "FIND YOUR PURPOSE!"

HAVE YOU/WE FOUND (Y)OURS? I PRAY THE LORD TO HELP ME AND ALL OF US TO FIND OUR PURPOSE AND TO FULFILL THEM WITH LOVE SO THEY WILL BE EFFECTIVE AND WILL LAST FOR ETERNITY. AS WE BEAR WITNESS TO THE TWO

SACRAMENTS OF OUR FAITH IN TAKING COMMUNION AND IN SUBMERSION BAPTISM TODAY, MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCEND IN A SPECIAL WAY AND WORK WITHIN EACH AND EVERYONE OF US TO ACTIVATE OUR GIFTS AND ANOINT US WITH THE GARNISH OF LOVE, SO WE WILL BECOME PRODUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL AS A BODY AND INDIVIDUALLY. MAY THE LORD, JEHOVAH GOD, ANOINT THE WORD, APPLY THE WORD, PROTECT THE WORD SO IT CANNOT BE UPROOTED, BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT WAS SENT TO DO FOR EACH ONE OF US AND AS A CHURCH. THROUGH CHRIST JESUS/ YESHUA-HA-MESSIACH WE GIVE THANKS IN FAITH. AMEN!

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