

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH OPEN SESSION
Divine Strategies - Living to fulfil Gods Divine Purpose for Your Life

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Session: "Divine Strategies – Burn Your Boat"
Scriptures: Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 22:31-34, 47-62; John 21

INTRODUCTION

(Matthew 4:18-22)

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

- God has a plan and purpose for all who believe in Him
- He gives them visions and dreams for their lives.
- Jesus called Peter and Andrew, James and John.

THE CALL OF PETER – WHEN HE WAS STILL SIMON

- Simon was a loud mouth, quick tempered, cursed and hasty in decisions.
- Jesus had to rebuke him as the mouth piece of Satan.
- In jeopardy, he would be disloyal.
- Yet God called him.
- God's call does not have to match with where you are spiritually.
- God has not come to call the righteous but sinners so that HE can transform them and declare HIS power in their lives

Illustration: The Potter's House

(Jeremiah 18:3-4)

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Allow God to make you so you can fulfill the plan and purpose for your life.

GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE THAT COMES WITH VISIONS AND DREAMS DOES NOT MEAN YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOVE AND ACCPET IT.

Illustrations:

- Moses and his response to God's call (Exodus 3:10 to 4:1)

Moses put up a strong argument

(Exodus 3:11)

- But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

(Exodus 3:13, 14)

- 13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

(Exodus 4:1)

- 1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "

(Exodus 4:10)

- 10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

- The call of Jeremiah

(Jeremiah 1:6-8)

Jeremiah said 6 "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." 7 But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD

- Gideon

(Judges 6:12-17)

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" 13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." 14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" 15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." 17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me

- Gideon cited evidence why he could not accept God's call
- Gideon lacked faith by seeking a sign

OBEYING GOD'S WILL CAUSE YOU TO GO THROUGH ADVERSITIES

- Adversities tempt us to go back to what you have been accustomed to or familiar with (John 21:3-11)

(John 21:3)

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

GOD HAS FAITH IN YOU

(Luke 22:31-34)

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." 33 But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." 34 Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

- You have a devil to fight when you do the will of God!
 - Satan seeks to dominate control and use you for his purpose
- What you need to know
 - Jesus prays for you (V 32)
 - His prayer is that your faith will not fail and when you have returned, or "converted" i.e. when you have completely given up being Simon – and become Peter wholeheartedly, or come into your destiny being as Peter, the "stone" – strengthen the brethren.
 - Fishing is no longer your business but saving lost men for the Kingdom of God.

BURN YOUR BOAT – the means of your carnal security that draws you back when adversities come your way – “burn the boat” so you can no longer return to it.

- Moses’ boat was Egypt
- Abraham’s boat was Lot

If you don’t, it will destroy you.

- Samson refused to let Delilah go and she destroyed him.
- Achan kept the Babylonian garment and he died.

(1 John 2:15-17)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

If you get your way, you will never fulfill your destiny

(Proverbs 14:12)

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

JESUS WILL PROTECT YOU DOING THE WORK OF GOD

(John 18:7-10)

7 Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

8 Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

(Luke 22:51)

51 But Jesus answered and said, “Permit even this.” And He touched his ear and healed him.

CONCLUSION: DIVINE STRATEGIES

- God calls those who are “Simons” to become “Peters”
 - God called Jacob before he became Israel.
- You will not automatically love and accept the call of God.
- Obeying God, will cause you to go through adversities
- God has faith in you
- Burn your boat
- God will protect you doing the will of God