

# NOTES PAGE



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

## Life FOR God

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | October 1, 2023

**Question: Why do you do what you do?**

### **Luke 15:25-32 (NIV):**

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

### **Matthew 4:19 (NIV):**

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

### **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV):**

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **1) Approval Addiction**

**Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV):**

<sup>1</sup> "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

*"At issue here is the question: 'To whom do I belong? To God or to the world?' Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. . . . Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves."*

– Henri Nouwen (from The Life I Always Wanted, John Ortberg)

**Galatians 1:10 (NIV):**

*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

**2) Burnout****Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV):**

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**3) Entitlement Mentality****Philippians 3:7-9a (NIV):**

<sup>7</sup>But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him.

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV):**

<sup>21</sup>"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

## Reflection Questions:

- 1) Why is it important to ask the question: "Why do I do?" with regard to our spiritual lives? What are the potential dangers of not asking that question?
- 2) Why do you do the things you do "for" God? What are your heart motivations? Do you have mixed motivations? Explain.
- 3) Read Luke 15:25-32 (Older Son) What are observations you make about the heart motivations (why?) of the older son? What observations do you make about the Father's heart motivations?
- 4) In what ways are the motivations of the younger son and the older son similar? How are they different?
- 5) Have you ever felt like your worth was tied to your performance and service and impact for God? (Explain) Why can this be dangerous thinking? Which of the 4 aspects of the Pause is the most difficult for you?
- 6) Living life FOR God instead of life WITH God can have some negative side effects that God does not desire for us. Approval Addiction (Matthew 6:1-4, Galatians 1:10) Burnout (Matthew 11:28-30) Entitlement Mentality (Luke 15:28-30)  
Can you relate to any or all of these? Share your experience? How does Life WITH God address these issues? (Read Scripture references for each.)
- 7) Read Matthew 7:21-23 How is it possible to do things FOR God and not really be WITH him or even having a relationship with him? How could you recognize this in yourself or others?



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