



The Purpose – Lesson 4

Establishing and Living by Your Priorities

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- 1. Priority 1: My Relationship with God.** Make space for God. This is the most important relationship in your life, and it is essential to prioritize it. Do you need to wake up a little earlier in the morning to spend time in the Word and prayer? Remember that this is a two-way relationship – speak with God and let Him speak with you. Creating this time with Jesus is always worth it.

- 2. Priority 2: Marriage.** This is a lifetime commitment. There will be ebbs and flows of who is feeling strong in the relationship. Are you afraid to be the spiritual and emotional strength for your family when your husband is going through a difficult season? During your husband's hard seasons, the best way to understand and support him is by being available to him as a sounding board and a resting place...a place that he can come to and be reminded that God is still working, even if he cannot see it in the moment. In order to be that place for your husband, you must be strong and growing in the Lord (which circles back to priority #1)
 - *Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ.* Ephesians 5:22, MSG

- 3. Priority 3: Children.** We must remember that, first and foremost, our children belong to God. Just as you look to the Lord for wisdom in how to live your life and use your time, we should seek Him to know what our children are called to do in this season and time as well. *Your children have a purpose even now, just as you do.* The difference is that we are called to steward this purpose and give them the space to grow in it. Your family is a body, a representation of Christ's Church.

- *He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:16, NLT*

4. Priority 4: Ministry (Personal Purpose). This is where we'll spend the majority of our time today, for the process of knowing your purpose brings clarity to your values and priorities.

- **Unforced Rhythms of Grace:** As women, the biggest challenge we face is balancing everything we feel responsible for in life: our husband, our children, our home, our work, and often many other things as well. We are nurturers, caretakers, creators, and everything in between. How do we balance all of it without becoming overwhelmed? Bible teacher Beth Moore was asked by a busy woman how she should juggle all of her responsibilities. Beth Moore replied: *"I'll tell you what – you better choose. You can't do a thousand things to the glory of God."* She chose her FAMILY and her MINISTRY, and everything else was put on the shelf. *"You only have this one shot,"* she said, "You only get to live this once." (from the session 1 video teaching of *Entrusted*) **So, how do you choose?**
 - **Look to Jesus FIRST.** Jesus is greater than urgent tasks. Jesus is greater than the opinion of man. Jesus *will* give you the wisdom you need to choose how to use your time.
 - *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5, ESV*
 - *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30, MSG*
 - *"My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30, NIV*
We should be marked by lightness. We shouldn't be walking around feeling as though we are under heavy weights, the way the world does. We should be walking differently! We should be walking in *His unforced rhythms of grace.*

- Peace in the midst of difficult circumstances should MARK us as followers of Christ. Innovation and strength that seem *impossible* should be the norm among those who believe. For we do not move forward, we do not live, breathe, move, or work in our own wisdom. Instead, we are coming to Jesus and His Word daily, saying, "Show me how to do this," and then following His lead.
- **Do what He Says to do.** When He shows you what you *are* supposed to be doing and what you *aren't* supposed to be doing, take these two actions:
 - **First**, let go of the things you're not supposed to be doing. This could be difficult. It may even hurt. But it's necessary. If you don't say no to what God is asking you to say no to, you can't move forward in His grace rhythm. You'll be out of step with Him and life will continue to be heavy.
 - **Second**, be fearless in saying YES to the things He has called you to do. This doesn't mean it will be easy. God doesn't always do "easy", because then there wouldn't be any *growth*. But, if you walk with Him in it and keep declaring that God has given these things to you, He will give you supernatural grace to do them. God is specific. God has an order. He enables you to do the things He's entrusted to you, even when it looks absolutely impossible, for then you can give Him the glory!!
 - A good indicator that something is *not* from the Lord is if it messes with your priorities of *God, husband, and children...*
 - Continue to ask Him what *He* has for you – day by day, season by season.

Conclusion:

- **Something More:** Many of you are probably feeling a stirring inside of you that God has something *more* for you to be doing. Listen to the promptings of God and let Him set your pace! Do not do this in your own strength and by your own wisdom. "*What we've learned is this: God does not respond to what we do; we respond to what God does. We've finally figured it out. Our lives get in step with God and all others by letting Him set the pace, not by proudly or anxiously trying*

*to run the parade.” Romans 3:28, MSG **Ask God to speak to you, and when He speaks, obey fearlessly.***

- **Seasons:** There is an ebb and flow to the seasons of our lives. Sometimes God may be asking you to take a step back and release some responsibilities. Sometimes He may be asking you to step forward in faith and take on something new. Whichever season you may be in, you can trust that His grace is sufficient for you to walk in obedience. Remember, God never calls you to something that He does not provide for and equip you for. When God’s grace meets our passion and obedience, we do what we’re meant to do and people are set free in our wake! Don’t let fear hold you back from doing all that you are called to do. HIS GRACE WILL MEET YOU THERE.

Reflection:

- What are your priorities and how do they affect the way you set up your life?
- What is God asking you to say YES to?
- What is God asking you to say NO to?