

40 days of focus: 2008

april 6.

Week 1: What on earth are we here for?

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

You are here for 4 basic reasons:

1. You are here to evangelize
2. You are here to disciple
- 3a. You are here to serve
- 3b. You are here to fellowship
4. You are here to worship

These basic reasons parallel the vision of **open door church**, which is love God, love others, love the lost and love to disciple.

1. love the lost is to evangelize
2. love to disciple is to have a passion to disciple
- 3a. love others is two fold, we love others through service.
- 3b. We love others through fellowship.
4. love God is how we are to worship.

Where did these purposes begin?

Genesis 1:26-29, 31

Then **God** said, "Let us make **man** in our **image**, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So **God** created **man** in his own **image**, in the **image of God** he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And **God** blessed them. And **God** said to them, "Be **fruitful** and **multiply** and **fill** the earth and subdue it and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have **given** you **every plant** yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The purposes began with God.

We were created for God! (vs. 27)

We were created in His Image! (vs. 27)

He purposed us to:

1. walk with him (Gen. 3.8)
2. have dominion (vs. 28)
3. be fruitful and to multiply, which is growth (vs. 28)
4. look to him for our sole source of provision. (vs. 29)

Man had a specific purpose, or otherwise stated, a vision!

Proverbs 29:18 (ESV)

^{29:18} Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Our purpose as stated by the apostle Paul:

Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)

^{8:28} And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

We are called to be conformed to the image of His Son!

Conformed- lit. formed with; *jointly formed*, i.e. (figurative) *similar* :- conformed to, fashioned like unto.

Image – Gr. Word - eikon; a *likeness*, i.e. (literal) *statue, profile*, or (figurative) *representation, resemblance* :- image, where we get the word icon.

As image bearers, we need to emulate God seeking us, as we seek him.

To seek God, is to worship God.

John 4:22-24 (KJV)

^{4:22} Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers** shall **worship** the Father in **spirit** and in **truth**: for the Father **seeketh** such to worship him. ²⁴ God *is* a Spirit: and they that **worship** him must **worship** *him* in spirit and in truth.

Worship-(proskuneo) (meaning to *kiss*, like a dog *licking* his master's hand); to *fawn* or *crouch to*, i.e. (literal or figurative) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*) :- worship.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

^{6:33} But **seek** first the **kingdom** of God and his **righteousness**, and all these **things** will be **added** to you.

As we begin our 40 days of focus, we see that our focus should be first God and his kingdom.