Making Your Mark

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.  

John 15:16

- We did not choose to be a follower of Christ, He chose us
- We are chosen for purpose – chosen to make a lasting impact
- We have been assigned a role – produce fruit that endures
- You and I have been chosen for something bigger than us
For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10
- We have a purpose that is bigger than the daily life we lead
  - We tend to think that in order to do something big or great or “to make our mark” means that we have to stop doing daily life and go out and find something extraordinary to do
- This is NOT TRUE!!!!
  - The purpose we are called to fulfill is found in our daily lives
- It is possible to “miss the forest for the trees”
  - We get so focused on what we have to do to live that we miss the main point of living
- We are not called to be great, but we are called to do great things
No one is like You, O LORD; You are great, and Your name is mighty in power.  
Jeremiah 10:6
- We get sidetracked by trying to be great, instead of dedicating our lives to the only truly Great One

What do we need to do?  
John 15:1-17
- God chose us to bear fruit
  - 3D Fruit – Demonstrations of the Kingdom of God
    1. The Character of Christ – fruit of the Spirit
      The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
      Galatians 5:22-23
    2. The Power of God
      These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.  
      Mark 16:17-18
    3. Transformed Lives
      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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
      Matthew 28:19-20
- We cannot produce any of this in our own strength & ability
• God & His Word are eternal – in order for us to produce fruit that lasts, we have to be connected to the source
• Jesus is the true vine – the true source for life
• In order to access this life we have to abide in Him or remain in Him
  ➢ Abide = to dwell, continue or be present
  ➢ An abiding relationship is where He is recognizably present at all times – *Proverbs 3:5-6*
• The Father is the gardener
  ➢ He cuts off unfruitful branches
  ➢ He prunes fruitful branches so they produce more fruit
    • Prune = clean or purge
      • Our lives need to be cleansed or purged of things that are not fruitful and of things that distract us from the main purpose
  ➢ He uses His Word to prune us
    • We are cleaned or pruned because of the Word - *logos*
      For the word (logos) of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *Hebrews 4:12*
• Fruit bearing is dependent on His Word remaining in us
  *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* *Joshua 1:8*
  ➢ Reading, studying, meditating and obeying His commands
  ➢ As we do this, our desires and motives are transformed – we begin to pray as Jesus did – result: God answers
  ➢ Answered prayers – a demonstration of God’s power brings glory to God & is a way we bear fruit for His kingdom
• His Word is powerful
  *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.* *Isaiah 55:10-11*
  ➢ Allowing His Word in us will result in something shifting & changing – we will be pruned
• Jesus is telling us this so that His joy can be in us & our joy
  ➢ What we are longing for cannot be found when we live for this life – it will only be found when we live for His purposes
    For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? *Luke 9:24-25*
      ✓ Focusing on and trying to find fulfillment and joy from this life will never bring satisfaction & joy
      ✓ When our daily lives become about producing fruit that lasts, we will find real fulfilment & joy
Challenge:

- Jesus has called us to make an eternal impact on our sphere of influence & circle of accountability
- This impact will be made through our everyday lives
- We will only make this impact as we remain in Him & His Word
- The degree of our impact & fruitfulness is directly correlated to how much His Word is present in us & is allowed to prune us
- Don’t get caught up in the monotony of daily life – God has a plan for us to produce fruit that will last