

**WHY AM I HERE?
(Matthew 22:36-40)**

I. Our great purpose.

- A. In our text for this sermon, Jesus was asked a question: “What is the greatest command of all?”
- B. One would think that He would have gone to one of the ten commandments.
 - 1. After all, these dominated the life of the Jews.
 - 2. These ten commands were hub of the life of Jews.
- C. Instead, Jesus went to Deuteronomy 6:5 and then added Leviticus 19:18 to His answer.
- D. Jesus, present when the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write those two passages cut through the red tape of the ten commandments and exposed to man the purpose for life: to lovingly obey God.
- E. This is why you and I are here on this planet, in possession of an eternal, immortal soul.
- F. We are here for no other purpose.
- G. We show our love for God by our obedience (John 14:15).
- H. Long ago, Moses gave this same answer to the Jews of His day (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).
- I. He would state it one more time to them just a short time before he died (Deuteronomy 30:15-16).
- J. Listen to what Samuel told Saul, when Saul had failed to obey God’s commands (1 Samuel 15:22).
- K. There are two actions that combine together to make the achievement of this great purpose for life possible and it is to them that we now look.

II. Fear God.

- A. The word “fear” means to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience.
 - 1. When one thinks of who God is, what He has done and is capable of doing, fearing Him is not a problem.
 - 2. Great reverence should be given to Him for His creative and sustaining powers (Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:28).
 - 3. Great reverence is due Him due to His creation and fulfillment of a plan to save mankind (John 3:16).
 - 4. We are nothing in comparison to God, thus He is worthy of deference and reverence.
- B. The idea of fearing God is one that has always been taught to God’s people.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 8:6.
 - 2. Ecclesiastes 12:13 tells us that the whole of man is made up of fearing God and keeping His commandments.
- C. In the New Testament, we are taught to fear God as well.
 - 1. 1 Peter 2:17.
 - 2. Here, Peter is giving a quick list of duties that need to be fulfilled in the life of a Christian, and one is “fear God.”

- D. The way we show our fear, or reverence for God, is by being obedient to Him.
 - 1. "Fear God and keep His commandments."
 - 2. The definition of the word "fear" ended with "reverential obedience."
- E. You show reverence for parents by being obedient to their wishes and rules of the house.
- F. The same holds true for God.

III. **Glorify God.**

- A. The second aspect of fulfilling our purpose in life is glorifying God with how we live our lives.
- B. When you and I and everyone else bring glory to God, we are fulfilling the purpose for which we have been placed on this earth.
- C. To glorify God means "to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate; do honor to, to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged."
 - 1. You and I are commanded to do so.
 - 2. Romans 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:20.
- D. As a matter of fact, all that we do is to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- E. What we do should not be meant to glorify us in any way (Matthew 5:16).
- F. Just as with fearing God, our obedience to the commands of God is what brings glory to Him.
 - 1. Good works bring glory to God.
 - 2. Good works are those things that God has asked us to do and that we have been created to do (Ephesians 2:10).
 - a. Notice that it is the one created in Christ Jesus.
 - b. One is in Christ when He/she has obeyed the gospel plan of salvation and been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
 - 3. It was for this reason that Jesus gave Himself for us (Titus 2:14).
 - 4. Good works are those that bring glory and honor to God.
 - 5. That which is considered good is that which God has commanded.
- G. We bring glory to God when we lovingly obey His commands.

IV. **Why we should strive to achieve our purpose in life.**

- A. Some might have a problem with being obedient.
- B. We tend to rebel at such a thought in our society.
- C. As mentioned, loving God is shown by our obedience.
 - 1. We should be obedient because we love God.
 - 2. We love God because He loves us (1 John 4:19).
 - a. Notice He loved us first.
 - b. He loved us while still in sin (Romans 5:8).
- D. The fact of the matter is God calls us to obedience for our own good, not our harm.
 - 1. Jeremiah 10:23.
 - 2. Proverbs 14:12.
- E. God gives us commands to be obeyed because they are good for us.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 6:24.

2. Psalm 19:10; 119:103.
- F. God's laws are not a burden to us (1 John 5:3).
- G. In fact they will make us happy if we comply with them (John 13:17; James 1:25).
- H. Great blessings belong to those that obey God.
 1. Psalm 34:7; 103:11.
 2. Acts 10:35.
 3. Hebrews 5:9.

Some material in this sermon came from a chapter in Dave Miller's book, Piloting The Strait.