

**Your Purpose**  
**By Parrish Lee**  
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**Purpose**—*noun, verb*, purposed, purposing 1. The reason something exists or is done, made, used, etc. 7. To intend; design.

*Luke 7:36-50 ...she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little...*

We're talking about purpose. If vision is the 'what,' then purpose is the 'why.' Vision might be what you're striving for, but purpose is why you're striving for it.

I can just imagine that, when this Pharisee knew that Jesus was coming to his house, that he wanted to make sure everything was just right. He told his servants to get out the best china, and to put out the best tablecloths, oh, and cousin Earl? don't let him in, because he's crazy. And my Aunt Esther? yeah, keep her out, too. I've had other people come over, but this guy? they say He's the Messiah; He might just be the One. So, this Pharisee, he's all decked out, and he's a religious man. You know that Bible says that the Pharisees fasted twice in the week, and they paid tithes of all they possessed (Luke 18:1-12). They didn't live like \*a sinner\*.

This woman was a sinner woman. I used to think that just meant that she was poor, but the way that's used in the Bible, it's more like she was a prostitute. She was behind Jesus, and she washed his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with her hair, and she kissed his feet. So, this sinner woman takes this alabaster box, she cracked the thing open. This alabaster box was so expensive, it doesn't even say, very expensive, it says, extremely expensive. It would have cost about a year's wages. When she cracked it open, it filled this place with an aroma.

*Revelation 5:8 ...golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

Here in Heaven it's talking about these golden vials that the angels had, and they were full of odors. The odors were the prayers of the saints. So, you see, our prayers issue forth and fill the atmosphere in Heaven.

That's the example of the sinner woman. They didn't have shoes like we have now, they wore sandals. They didn't have fancy paved roads like we have now, they had dirt roads. Their feet had dust and dirt and all kinds of other stuff on them. It says that she washed His feet with her tears. Now tears don't just represent on emotion, they represent several emotions: Her repentance, her hope and joy, her expectations and desire. It says she wiped His feet with her hair. Now, in those days, the women usually wore their hair in a bun, and they always kept it covered. So she took the covering off, and let down her hair. Now the Bible says that if a woman have long hair, it is a glory unto her (1 Corinthians 11:15). Now, a man can have long hair, but it's not a glory to a man. And it says that she kissed His feet. So, the tears represent her emotions, the hair is her glory, and the kisses, her love. The fullness of; the best of her emotions, glory, and love.

Now Simon thought that Jesus came there for him, but Jesus came there for them; both Simon and the sinner woman.

When Jesus asked Simon about who loved more, you notice Simon put that little condition on it, "I suppose..." People don't like to be wrong.

Her sacrifice was what stood out to the Lord. Simon and the woman had completely different purposes.

Point #1: It is important to define and to know your purpose.

Pastor Paine would say, “If you’re a hammer, everything you see looks like a nail.” There’s a lot of insight in that. In the Navy there were alternate nicknames for different rates. Electricians were wire-biters; Electronic Technicians were twidgets; Nukes were pushbuttons; guys in the engine rooms were snipes, and, generally, those names were given by people outside those professions. If you’re an athlete, everything is an opportunity to get better, or to excel. If you’re a cook, everything is an idea for a recipe. If you’re a wrestler, everything is a lock or a take-down. When I played a lot of chess, I used to see chessboards everywhere: on the tile floor, on walls and ceilings. You get the idea. So, the question is, what do you consider yourself? An evangelist? then everything looks like an opportunity to share the good news. A prayer warrior? then you are frequently praying situations through for yourself and others. A teacher? or, better yet, a Christian? If so, then we seek out every opportunity to be Christ-like. Oh, Brother Parrish, come on now: the Lord is perfect and nobody is that good. Amen—but we still strive to be like the One we love.

*Ephesians 2:10*      *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...*

Point #2: Not everyone is going to know or realize you purpose.

A quick sidebar: I want to mention the stories of two ladies and a child and their prayer lives. One sister went home with her husband after a moving church service, and as soon as she walked through the door, she dropped her belongings, raised up her hands and prayed, and repented, and blessed God. You know who told me about that? her husband. He said he was so convicted that he nearly turned around and walked out of the house.

Another sister in the church, who, one time after service there were people just tarrying in the altar, and a brother told me they just don’t do that in his house. He went to sign out his children from children’s church; he heard someone boisterously praising God and he wondered who that was making all that noise. When he got closer, he realized that was his wife with another sister praising and blessing God by the doorway. Didn’t even make it to the altar, just praising God out in the hallway. And you know what he told me? Not, “I’ll join her,” not, “I’ll praise and bless God, too,” not even, “Let me let the children see their mother come before God that they could learn,” just, “Let me watch the kids until she finishes.” Come to think of it, the other brother never told me that he joined his wife, either. I guess after this, no many brothers will tell me when their wife does something that convicts them anymore.

Or the time when the mother and father were riding in the front seat and the children in the back, and one of the children used a bad word. The mom told me that she would have given her a little tap to correct her, but she couldn’t reach, so she told her that was a bad word and that Jesus doesn’t like it when we use those words. “He doesn’t?” “No, He doesn’t,” and that little child turned around in that back seat and began asking God to forgive her, and telling Him how sorry she was. After a little bit, the mom said, “That’s enough,” but the child said, “No, mom, I want Jesus to forgive me of my sins,” and only cried out louder, over and over, “Please forgive me, Lord, I only want to make you happy.” That mom told me it convicted her so bad that it was all she could think about and it changed the way that she prayed.

*Romans 8:28 ...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called...*

When you love Him, and when you are the called, according to His purpose, then you can say, “Lord, I love You, and I’m turning it over to You.”

Point #3: Your purpose can be changed or refined—to the good or to the bad.

There are many examples that could be used here. We’ve all seen them and lived them. Generally, the comments are, “They’ve changed.”

*Acts 18:25:28 ...they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly..*

Point #4: As Christians, our purposes must line up with God’s purposes.

*2 Chronicles 15:1-2 ...the LORD is with you, while ye be with Him...*