

PRAYER

Father God, thank You for the purpose You've given each of us. Help us to discover it and walk in it daily, in Jesus' Name, Amen!

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Roger shared that his heart for the church is that we all have our unique mission from God so clearly defined in our hearts that we live each day on mission and with purpose, God's purpose, for our lives. He read from Jeremiah the story where God had run out of patience with the Israelites after 50 years of trying to get them to obey, so He exiled them to Babylon to live as slaves for 70 years. He then commanded them to build homes, plant gardens, get married, have and raise kids, and then help their kids do the same. He did not want them to waste away doing nothing, even though they were living as slaves and under extreme hardship. He expected them to produce fruit and live on mission in the middle of it (Jer 29:4-11, 13-14)! So many times we wait for things to get better for us before we start doing good things for God, but God wants us to occupy and make the most of the space we are in right now! We have to be productive while being captive, or we will be miserable with no hope. No matter what we are going through, we all have "gold" within us that can produce something great in the Kingdom of God; we just have to get it out. How do we get the "gold" in us, out of us and then what do we do with it?

DISCUSSION

- 1. Mine it.** We have to mine the gold within us to get it out of us, and we do this by continually putting ourselves in uncomfortable and unfamiliar situations, and positions that we are not good at. If we think competency and confidence is the route to getting the gold out of us, we are wrong. Much like getting gold out of the ground is very hard, so is getting it out of us. What makes us each unique and special is deep within us, so it will, and should be, hard and uncomfortable to get out of us.
- 2. Refine it.** We refine the gold within us by embracing hardship and difficulty and letting it finish its work, not letting it make us bitter, but better. Letting painful circumstances make us bitter and sour will not get us anywhere good. We have to embrace heartbreak and pain, not duck and cover, and let God use it to refine us into something valuable for His Kingdom.
- 3. Design it.** Goldsmiths file, solder, polish, and grind gold and other metals to design and shape them into something extravagant. God wants to shape the gold in us into something extravagant, but it will require us to allow Him to do some grinding away of the impurities. If we are not allowing our lives to be designed and shaped by God, we are wasting them.
- 4. Assign it.** We have to be active and not allow inactivity, in order to get assigned. It's time for us to arise and start walking, doing the good works that He prepared for us to do (Eph 2:10), so that we can be who God has called us to be! There are no small tasks in the Kingdom of God and He wants to assign us; we just have to be active for Him so that He can.

Questions: *What needed change of circumstances in your life have you allowed to keep you from being on mission for God? What unfamiliar and uncomfortable situations have you avoided that could be used to mine "gold" out of you? What "gold" do you believe could come out of you as a result of putting yourself in these situations? Is there any pain in your life that you're either avoiding, or letting it make you bitter, when maybe you should be embracing it and letting it refine you? How are you letting God design and shape you? Share a time that you felt in captivity, but you stayed active and productive in it and were fruitful?*

HOW WILL I BE DIFFERENT?

We can't sit still waiting for our circumstances to get better before we become productive and fruitful. How will you change your perspective on where you're at and start moving, so that God can get the "gold" within you out of you, making you fruitful in the Kingdom?