

“LORD MAKE MY LIFE MORE WEIGHTY”

Scripture used: [1 Chronicles 4:9-10 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Our Scripture showcases a man who was more honorable than his brothers, Jabez. It teaches us a dangerous prayer that has the power to align our lives with God’s purposes and power in a radical way. It reveals the heart behind every prayer, and changes the understanding of what is actually prayed for. It highlights the weight of a person’s life: their influence, credibility, and substance; and ties it back to God’s eternal purpose. It feeds in us a desire for a more “weighty” life.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Our protagonist’s life had weight in his family, community, and with God. It begs the question: “does my life have weight?”. In this sense, weight can be defined as *gravitas* in the presence of God, in the awareness of His purpose. Just as when the Word became flesh, and we beheld Jesus’ glory. The Hebrew root of the word “honorable” has all the connotations: weight, substance, glory.
- 2) A keel is what keeps a sailboat floating – what’s beneath the surface is heavier than what’s on the surface. In the same way, Jesus’ glory – His eternal purpose and work in the world - is what keeps us upright. We must strive to be persons shaped by the purposes of God, recognizing that Jesus’ life and works were tied to the divine purpose. Are my daily activities tied to eternal purpose, and do they have a godly impact?
- 3) A revelation: we can see our daily occupation as laying bricks, building walls, or building a cathedral. Work has a big picture: are we engaged in worship through our work? We can think of the Temple of God as a facility – or adhere to a deeper notion that the Earth is ultimately God’s temple. In [Psalm 150](#) and [Habakkuk 2:20](#), we are reminded to praise God’s mighty creation. We must look at the respective weight of work versus worship and private devotion in our lives. People were busy washing the physical temple, preparing the food, fires, utensils – yet it was all sacred because it was connected to the work of God. We should think of our entire lives in the same way: whatever we give the lion’s share of our time to, whether being a parent and providing a safe and welcoming home, or working, or studying, is part of God’s work. It’s not an isolated and meaningless activity - it’s building a cathedral and not just laying bricks. God calls us to multi-dimensional thinking. In [Exodus 31:1-5](#), they are building the tabernacle. They are expert master craftsmen, dedicated to God, filled with the spirit of God, as they understand their work to be connected to a larger purpose.
- 4) Pastor Hurmon loves “The Godfather” movies. Michael Corleone (played by actor Al Pacino) wanted to exit the dark side of his family’s sordid business, and break into the light. But there was a cost to get out. He was trapped. It’s a metaphor for every difficult choice. There is a short-term cost in choosing, but the burden adds up when we don’t choose. When we fail to make the courageous choice, we think we avoid a short-term calamity, but in fact we forgo long-term blessings. God is calling us to make the difficult but ultimately life-giving choices to leave dark places, or in some cases to leave good places, in order to be in the right place. This place of alignment with God’s purpose allows us to bask in the light of God, in wisdom and faithfulness, and in being engaged in one’s true purpose. Our lives will have weight today and in eternity.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are the parts of your life where you feel most aligned with God’s purpose and the way He created you to be? What are the parts that feel least aligned? What are the most significant impediments to seeing your whole life as intended to be aligned with God’s purpose?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Exodus 31:1-5](#). Do you feel like you are using the gifts, skills, and talents that God has given you for the purposes of God? Are you currently in a dark place, or in a good place but not necessarily the right place? What is God saying to you through this message about adjustments in your life, either changes in perspective or changes in time or behavior?
- 3) **DO** - Making adjustments to align with God’s purposes is not easy. Share your desire to make adjustments with your life group or with a trusted friend. We would love to see you next Sunday at our Gatherings and/or at our Park ‘N Play Event in Redwood City next Sunday afternoon!