

Pt. 1 Purpose

Sermon Title: **Pt. 1 Purpose**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Oftentimes you will not know God's purpose, but what you do need to do is follow God's voice and follow his will.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part one of the series titled, "Purpose" by Nathaniel Bronner. This sermon is number 5856.

(Music Playing: 00:00:18 - 00:00:29)

And now for, "Purpose, Part 1."

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.

And there is a movie called "Harriet". The movie is basically a dramatized documentary. It's probably embellished somewhat perhaps from the truth, but it is an embellished documentary of the story and the life of Harriet Tubman. Now, in the movie and for those of you who have not seen it, there are going to be some spoilers in it. So, if you haven't seen it, you're going to know a little bit about the plot. But in the movie, she's called "Minty" and it opens up with her having seizures. Because what happen when Minty was a young girl, she got hit in the head. And when she got hit in the head, she began to have seizures but when she had the seizures, she heard from God.

You know sometimes God had to slap us upside the head, I wish that he could whisper to all of us in just a gentle soft voice, but parents you do understand that sometimes you cannot talk to all of your children in a gentle soft voice. There comes a point – now, I know this is not politically correct, but there comes a point with your children where even talking didn't work. And you have to do like my daddy used do it. My daddy would've been locked up so much now because, you know, you just cannot hit a child now because it claim, that's just going all-- let me tell you this, no discipline is far worse than a belt or a switch any day of the week but yet you have to elevate sometime a soft whisper and you have to take that to a shout and when they don't listen to a shout you have to take that to another whole level.

So, Minty began hearing the voice of God after she was hit in the head and she began to have these seizures. And as the movie progress, she was married to a man named, John. Minty was

still a slave owned by the slave master but John was a freeman and John came to the master's porch and he had a piece of paper and he said, "I've been to the lawyer and I've got a paper and it's from the will of your mother," and in the will she wanted Minty to be free and this is her freedom paper and the master just took the papers and tore them up and said, "She ain't going free, she's going to die as slave." And she became disheartening and Minty went off and prayed. And as she prayed she said, "Lord, kill this man."

Sometimes, we're not to evolve. You supposed to love everybody but, you know, there are some folk that just get on your -- what moms maybe used to call. She used to say, "I ain't got but what nerve left and you got on that." Sometimes, you don't have a one nerve left and then they got on that. So, Minty was perhaps not in the most Christ like state of mind. After this master said she would never be free, she would die as slave, she went off and she prayed, "Lord, kill this man." And the master's son, heard Minty as she was praying, but the thing about it, his daddy died the next week. So when he saw that he said, he didn't know whether it was coincidence or whether Minty had some power.

So, he said, "I can't take any chance with this woman. Because I don't know whether this was just happens (00:04:21), but I saw her praying last week to kill my daddy and my daddy land up in the grave right now." So, he sent out to sell Minty and Minty got wind of it. So, she said, "I got to run." And she went to her husband John and said, "Look, I got to run. They're going to sell me, and I've got to get out of here." John said, "I will go with you." She said, "No, you can't come." And John said, "I will go with you." She said, "No, you can't come because if they catch you and you're a freeman, you will lose your freedom." And Minty didn't even see him anymore. After that, she stalled away in the night and she run. And the master once he found out she was gone, he set up a manhunt for, and they went to track her down and they caught her on the bridge.

00:05:00

And the master was on one end and the other end of the (00:05:04) was on the other end and Minty was there in the middle of the bridge, she got up on the rail of the bridge and the master turned and said, "Come on, we won't hurt," then she knew that weren't true.

So, she was up in this railing of the bridge and there was a river raging below and she said I will either be free or die and she jumped into the river. And they look for Minty but they couldn't find her. So, they assumed she had drowned and she was dead but she didn't die. She made it out of the river. She made it over a hundred miles and she finally made it to a northern city where she was made it to the underground railroad to freedom and she stayed there and they nursed her, and they've taught her. And a year later, Minty says, after she got there, she changed her name. And she changed her name from Minty and she took on the name of Harriet.

See? When God changes your position, he will often change what you called. He may not change your legal name, but he will change what you are called and he will often change what you call yourself. And once God get you free, you'll stop calling yourself somebody's negative stuff. You stop calling yourself I am broke. You stop calling yourself that. That's why when you really evolved, you got to change what you are called. So, she stopped Minty, and she became Harriet Tubman. And after a year she said, "I've got to go back and I got to get John. Because I'm up here, I'm free but I'm all by myself. I've got to get John." And the people said, "No, no. It's too dangerous for you to go back there. If you get back and you get caught, you can't come back, you'll be locked up, you'll be back on the plantation." She said, "I got to go and get John."

So, they gave her some false papers and she set out, went through some few road blocks here and there, but she finally made it back and John kind of work in a blacksmith shop and she walked in to his job and she saw John. Tears are running and, "Oh, John. Oh, John. I missed you so much. Oh, John. Oh, my goodness." And she ran up and she grabbed John and she hang on to John but she noticed John was a little cold. John didn't wrap his arm around her and professed his love and when, she stepped back and said, "What's wrong John?" John said, "I'm married." She said, "What?" John said, "They told me you were dead. That you jump off a bridge into the river and you were dead. So, I've got another wife and we got a child along the way." And Minty said, "John, how could you do that to me?" And John look at Minty said, "You left me. I tried to go with you, you left me." There's a whole sermon in that but I'm not going in there.

So, here Minty walks off into a field and as she's walking towards this tree and tears are streaming down her face and she's talking to God and she said "God, why? Why did you let me come back? Why did you let me go through all this danger? Why did you let me come back to find out my husband was married to another woman with a child along the way? Why didn't you tell me there's upfront, I'm talking to you, why did you tell me to go back? Why?"

Now, I knew the why. Because I knew the rest of the story. I knew the story of Harriet Tubman before the movie. So, I understood why God let her come back. But you see, Harriet or Minty in her moment of pain, in her moment of unclarity, looking through a glass (00:08:53) not understanding why she had to go through all of this. Minty, Harriet could not understand God's purpose or his plan. And I am beginning today a four-part series that will last to the end of this season simply called "Purpose." And for so many, we don't know the purpose of why God has called us to do or to be what we're supposed to be.

Back in the old days before golf had become introduced to this county, they are the Brothers of the Word a very avid golfers, C. Elijah and James both played golf extremely well. Well, one of Ulysses S. Grant, when he was a president, one of his aids came to demonstrate the game of golf to President Grant. So, the aid brought President Grant outside. He teed up the ball and he took his club and he went back and swop, whoop! But he missed the ball and just dug up a whole lot of dirt, sprayed dirt all over President Grant, all in his beard. And so, President Grant just stood and look his -- one more -- let me just show you. So, he got in position again, took her swing back, (00:10:11)! Missed the ball again, dug up dirt just sprayed all over the president. He swung six times and never hit the ball.

So, President Grant had never, you know, he'd never known about the game of golf and he looked at the aid and he says, "This action seems to be a pretty good sport. It looks like there's a very good amount of exercise when all of that swinging." He said, "But what I don't understand is what's the purpose of the ball?" See, he could not understand what the ball had to do with anything. He thought the whole game was just having to do with swinging, and digging up dirt. See, if you don't know the

purpose of something, it looks totally strange to you and you don't know the purpose of a thing.

So, here in life, some of you -- you go through some things and you don't understand God's purpose for the thing. And sometimes we deal with stuff not understand, you know, in Proverbs there is a verse 14:12, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death it." It seems like it's right, it seems like it's good, but in the end, it leads to death.

Years ago, Frank Sinatra, he had a very popular song. Most of you have probably heard this song either song by Sinatra or someone else and the words to the opening verse of the song goes like this, "And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain. My friend, I'll say it clear, I'll state my case, of which I'm certain. I've lived a life that's full. I've traveled each and every highway and much more than this, I did it my."

There's your way and there's God's way. And sometimes with God's purpose, He's way is not how we -- see? Minty was there but John, but that was not God's purpose for sending her back. And just on that first trip, she brought back seven of her family members because they were getting ready to sell her brothers because they're running some economic hard times on the farm. So, they were getting ready to sell the rest of her family and Harriet Tubman began the underground railroad of where she eventually took hundreds of slaves to freedom with her own family but she didn't get John.

And see? Some of you, you're looking for John and God does not have it in his purpose for you to get John. There's a whole different purpose in your life but you can't see it. Just like you Ulysses Grant couldn't understand what's the purpose of the ball. You can't see some things until God reveals and sometimes, he won't reveal it at all. And you will not know He's purpose.

So many times I've gone through some things that I didn't understand. Yesterday, I had two situations. I was coming back from out of town and I was -- I'm going stop and get something to eat in a restaurant and I was going to one restaurant and God said, "You go to this restaurant." So, I want to go (00:13:46). He said you go to this restaurant. I've learned to be obedient. I'd rather have a meal where God tells me than a meal where I

want to go. Because God just know some stuff way more than I do. I went in, the waitress sat me down. She sat me next to a family and it was about ten or twelve folks at the table. So, I ate my meal, I'm getting ready to go and I hear God speak, I want you to pay for their meal. And I said Lord, "You know how many folks are there in their family? You must can't count. I said, "You know how many folks over there in their family? But I've learned my purpose and my plans or not God's.

So, I looked over there to find the daddy. I found their daddy. I walked over to the daddy. I said "Excuse me sir, is this your family?" He said "Yes, it is." I said would you be offended if you gave me the honor to pay for your meal? He said "Sure, I wouldn't be." So, I pay for their meal. He had all his children just come up and shake my hand and to thank me for it. And I see why even as a daddy what he was doing in how he was training his children.

00:15:02

And see, I understood the purpose of that clearly once I left the situation. On my way home, we lived on a kind of a busy street that the subdivision is on but the street is closed right now there because they're doing some bridge repairs. So, it's been closed in the last few months. So, I get to the main street, get ready to make a left turn but there's a traffic light. There's a traffic light on red. Normally, I will run that light and the reason I run the light because the street is closed. So, no nobody travelling on the street. So, what I will do is looked and see if anybody coming that way, anybody coming that way, and I'm only the person there. I just go and run the light. I really do. I've gone turn left and run the light. So, I'm just being honest with you. (00:15:43) some stuff yourself but please don't look at me like I'm (00:15:45). But I run the light. So, I'm getting ready to run the light and I hear God's speak, "Do not run that light."

So, I'm sitting there at the light. I looked and see, is it the police somewhere nearby some -- is that the reason for me not to run the light. No police, (00:16:07) dark and I'm sitting there and the thing about it, I'm waiting on the light to turn green. It was 9:28 when I got to that light, 9:35 the light is still red. I said Lord, "This is the longest light I've ever seen in my life." A car pulls up behind me and this car is going left to the subdivision.

They wait about a minute, they pulled around me then go run the light.

I'm sitting here after nine minutes and I've never seen any light less after nine minutes. I see the other light changed from green to yellow to red. So, I'm going to -- I said, "Lord, I don't know why in the world you got me sitting here. I've been sitting here nine minutes and finally the light has changed. So, the light went from green to yellow to red. And my life is still on red, is it just a (00:17:02). I've got to wait another few seconds. Until I looked at there, the light is switched back to green. I said "What in the world." I said "Lord, this light is broken. You got me sitting here in the light (00:17:17) and this light is broken." I sat there and waited another cycle, green, yellow, red, red. Then it went back to green I said Lord, "This is ridiculous." Sometimes, I have to talk with the Lord. I said, "Why do you have me -- wouldn't answer me?" "Do not run that light."

So, I'm sitting there, to be honest about it feeling rather stupid. And anyone who saw me sitting there after 15 minutes would say, that man is stupid. So, sometimes -- and this was last night. This is right after I get through seeing purpose in the restaurant. I'm seeing the light that I can see no purpose in. So, after about 20 minutes, I turn right went down in the street turn around and came back. And when I looked in a rear-view mirror, the light was changed but it still never changed to green. And I still don't understand why.

Now, sometimes God -- I said Lord, "I'm just not sure the whole purpose of that, was just not for the amusement of the angels." I just could come and see a whole host of angel just around in my car. I'm just slapping on and like a special to see when they saw light, go from green, to yellow, to red. I'm sitting all they expecting and then if they never change -- and I could imagine, they just sitting there just laugh, I don't know what the purpose of that.

Let me explain something's just in terms of the natural -- probably one of the most strategic games in the world is chess. A normal chess player thinks about one to three moves ahead. A pro chess player will think four to seven moves ahead. A master will think eight to ten moves ahead but a grandmaster will think from eleven to twenty moves ahead. And this is a grandmaster. They're not about hundred grandmasters on

earth and the longest chess game is 269 moves. God knows the end from the beginning. It makes chess look like an inputs game. I cannot discern and determine what God's purpose ultimately is in the stuff He has me to do. Sometimes, I'll see it other times, it just made no sense to me whatsoever.

The only thing I can do is listen for His voice and do my best to obey. Sometimes, years later, it becomes clear, that's why God told me to do that or now I see why he told me not to do that and I sure wish I hadn't done that. That has happened plenty of times. Oftentimes you will not know God's purpose but what you do need to do is follow God's voice and follow His will and when we do that, it changes some things.

In the movie, *The Blind Side*, Sandra Bullock played a mother who adopted a young black boy. And as the husband was telling the story at a speech, the real life host because it's based on the true story, this couple adopted this black homeless boy, took him in and he later became a great football player and play for the NFL. And as the husband, the real-life husband was talking at a benefit. He was telling the people that his wife saw the boy, walking down the street, it was in November, it was cold and he had on a t-shirt and short pants.

And he said my wife spoke two words that change my whole family, that change our lives and change his life. And those two words as my wife and I draw past this young homeless black boy, those two words were turn around and with us and we are not sure about purpose, we're not sure what we're supposed to do, we're not sure even why we're doing some things but see I wasn't sure about the light what I was sure about God told me not to run it. I don't know why. I have no idea. I've been trying to spare what kind of possibly been the reason for that.

Sometime, God just want to test to see we're going to be obedient but you know what I started doing about five minutes, I pulled out my phone and I began to study. I said I've got to see him as I will do some productive way not just stare the light because the more I stood to light, the more irritated I got. Sometimes, if you will take your eyes off of the thing that's irritating you, it calms you down. So, actually I pull out my phone and I started to study. I held it up so I could see the green and gold so if there would be a change I would know instantly. But I started studying because sometimes people -- you're stuck in a situation

and you can't get out of the situation. You're like Minty and you're locked down in some situations and you got to learn not to focus on the situation, focus on what you can do, focus on what you do have and I just started studying.

I don't know what that was for but I do know God told me not to run that like and I did not violate it because I made a right turn which was fully legal and went down and turn around and came back. Turn around. And as we deal into the series simply dealing with purpose for so many of us, we need to do a turn around and we're going to need to make some changes to get into God's purpose for our lives but in order to make those changes, we're going to need to at least have some idea of what that purpose is and I'm going to reveal that to you.

God has a purpose for every single one of you and it's a specific purpose and it's outlined specifically in His word and you need to know what that is and it's not what you think. So, as I show you this in the coming series, you need to have your mind gear -- if you feel that you're not in your calling, if you're not following your divine purpose, then you need to be prepared to turn around and you need to be prepared to turn around and to go where God tells you to go.

I hope all of you can listen to the entire series, simply called "Purpose". If you're listening electronically, you'll be able to go to brothersoftheword.com and listen to the entire series absolutely free of charge. Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

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