

GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

Ps. Waweru Njenga – 3 April 2016

“True North” Series

Sermon Notes



Question of the Day: Have you ever been lost? Really lost?

My story headed to Najjanankumbi...

If you're heading the wrong way, driving faster won't get you there! You need to stop for directions!

Some of you are laughing with me, but I suspect that others here are laughing at me. Before you laugh too hard however, please note. Being lost on the highway is bad but it's a lot worse when we're lost in life. And like me, many of us would never admit that we're lost. There are two different categories of people here. A few of us have arrived at our dreams. We've achieved academic & professional success, have a nice car, a beautiful home, and prestige in the eyes of our peers. We're earning amounts that our parents would never have dreamed of. And yet every once in a while, there's a sense of disquiet. If I've achieved so many of my dreams, then why do I still feel as if there should be more to life? Why am I not satisfied?

The majority of us however are still chasing our dream. We're working hard in order to get our piece of the pie. There's always a sense that success is just around the corner if only we just work harder. If only I could finish that exam, if only I could get promoted, if only I could land that account, if only I could buy that car, if only I could get married to the right man, if only I could get out of my bad marriage, if only I could finally get a child, if only my children could leave home... Often, the pursuit is so engaging that we don't stop to realize that just a few years ago, if we looked at someone who was where we are, we'd have thought they had it made [remember in college when you saw that person with a nice job and said 'if only!'] Now you're there and you're still saying 'if only'. Is it possible that just we're setting ourselves up for midlife crisis? Midlife crisis is when you get to the top of the ladder of success only to find it was leaning against the wrong wall. That you spent the best years of your life focusing on the wrong things...

And yet if we're wise enough to look ahead at the people who are where we're heading, we'll notice that somehow they too are not satisfied. I remember reading that **Bill Gates, Microsoft chairman** and the richest man in the world, constantly worries about competition. He reportedly said, *'in this business, by the time you realize you're in trouble, it's too late to save yourself. Unless you're running all the time, you're gone!'* We need to stop and ask ourselves; if the people ahead of me are all not yet satisfied, is life meant to be a continual cycle of dissatisfaction? With people at every stage saying, 'if only I had just one more thing?' Am by the time I get to my deathbed, will I still be saying 'if only'. Remember, **if you're heading the wrong way, driving faster won't get you there! You need to stop for directions!**

Fortunately for us, when we stop to look at God's word, we find great directions that point us to our life's purpose ... Please turn with me in your bibles to **Jer.1:4-10 (NLT)**.

The Lord gave me this message: 5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations." 6 "O Sovereign Lord," I said, "I can't speak for you! I'm too young!" 7 The Lord replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. 8 And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!" 9 Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth! 10 Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms. Some you must uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Others you must build up and plant."

From Jeremiah's call, we find several important clues that can help align us to our purpose...

1. **I was known** – *'I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb'*. **yada' (yaw-dah')** *to know (properly, to ascertain by seeing); used in a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially*

This is a rather mind-boggling statement. It implies that long before I was conceived, long before my parents even knew each other, God knew me. He had planned for me. We may use the term 'unplanned pregnancy' if conception happens when parents were not expecting it. With God, there is no 'unplanned person! The psalmist in **Psa.139:16** says, *'All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.'*

2. **I was formed** – *'I formed you in your mother's womb'*. **yatsar (yaw-tsar')** *to mould into a form; especially as a potter; figuratively, to determine (i.e. form a resolution) -- earthen, fashion, form, frame, make(-r), potter, purpose.*

This is our true origin as human beings. The creator of the universe Himself, worked on each of us as His special masterpiece [no mass production factory line – each one of us is handcrafted to fine detail]. Our personalities, our physical characteristics, our natural talents and abilities, the circumstances in which we were born... none of these was by accident. **Psa.139.13-15** *'For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I'm fearfully and wonderfully made...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body.* (Turn to neighbor & say 'you're fearfully & wonderfully made☺)

3. **I was set apart** – *'before you were born I set you apart'*. **qadash (kaw-dash')** *to be (causatively, make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally)*

God's intention in planning for us and then forming us is to set us apart, to make us different. Listen, God made provision for us to be free, forgiven, rescued, cleansed and upright! Before we ever prayed the prayer!

4. **I was appointed** – *'(I) appointed you as my spokesman to the world'*. **Nathan (naw-than')** *to give, used with greatest latitude of application (put, make, etc.)*

You belong, you're here by right. You've messed up but you know what, you're in the right place!

Eph.2:10 *'For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'*. We often think of pastors as people who have a 'calling'. What I'm saying is that every single person here has a calling. There is a specific task that will not get done if you don't do it.

Put your hand on your chest and let's say this creed together... "I am valuable! I am unique! I am significant! My worth and purpose do not depend on who I am or what I have, what I have done, what has been done to me, what others say about me, or what I myself think. My worth and purpose depend on God and God alone... It's not who I am; it's whose I am".

You were known, formed, set apart and appointed for a specific purpose.

I don't know your response to what I've just said but I suspect that some of you, like Jeremiah may be a little overwhelmed! You're thinking 'who me? He must have the wrong number!' Jeremiah's response was *'O Sovereign Lord...I can't speak for you! I'm too young!'* But God's response to Jeremiah is was the form of a command. *'Don't say that... for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you.'* Here's the thing God was saying to Jeremiah, and is saying to all of us this morning: you will never be satisfied until you are aligned to God's purpose. Remember: **if you're heading the wrong way, driving faster won't get you there. You need to stop for directions.**

All that running in life, all the 'if onlys' are because we feel the vacuum in our lives created by the absence of God's purpose. We were made to live for something much bigger than ourselves. But relationships, possessions, success or fame will never truly satisfy unless they are helping me achieve God's purpose for me. This month I'm going to be talking about how Mavuno helps us discover and begin to live out God's purpose for our lives.

Paul, lived his life running after power, prestige and recognition. Until He had an encounter with The Lord, that completely put him on the path to purpose, his true North.

Why coming to Church is so critical

Some of us may not have grown up in church-going homes like I did and so it's hard to build that habit of coming to church every Sunday. But what we're saying is that every Sunday at Mavuno is vital. It's your weekly briefing. It's a time to get inspired, to tune in; to get nudged back on track where we've lost the way. They say that if a rocket to the moon takes off leaning just a few degrees in the wrong direction, it will miss the moon by thousands of miles. Sunday in God's house is that time to get our bearings so that we're aligned to God's purpose. Because remember, **if you're heading the wrong way, driving faster won't get you there! You need to stop for directions!**

Some of us have found this already to be the place where your life is being shaped. I want to affirm you and say 'you are in the right place'. You may not have your act together yet, but discovering purpose is a journey, not an event and your being here is a good first step. Perhaps though you have friends who are out there. They look like they have their act together but they are desperately lost and can't ask for directions. Here's how we can work together. You pray and invite them to church. We will do our best to create relevant services that inspire them and help them see that God's purpose is relevant for them. Because **if they're heading the wrong way, driving faster won't get them there! They need to stop for directions!**

Let me end with this thought. Imagine you loving your work so much you could do it for free. Imagine being so passionate about life that you want to wake up early just because you're looking forward to every day. Imagine you living for something so much bigger than yourself; something so big it's worth living for and even dying for. Imagine you being content and fulfilled, even if you haven't achieved all your dreams, because you know you are exactly where God wants you to be.

CELEBRATE

1. All who never used to go to church but have begun to come to church every Sunday because of Mavuno (1st step to purpose)
2. All who've given their lives to Christ because of coming to Mavuno (2nd step to purpose)
3. I've wandered around trying to get relationships, career, money etc. to satisfy me. But today I want to stop running and ask for directions...

Ministry

- a) Lead people to Christ
 - b) Pray for people looking to settle into Mavuno
 - c) Invite people to bring their friends to church
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