

Jamin Eben

SESSION 3 | The Sufficiency of Scripture for Finding Meaning in Life

I. INTRODUCTION: WHY DOES SCRIPTURE SO OFTEN FEEL INSUFFICIENT?

- When life feels most mundane...
- When we wish Scripture was more personal...
- You are not alone!

“Even more than I’m afraid of failure, I’m terrified by boredom. Facing another day, with ordinary callings to ordinary people all around us is much more difficult than chasing my own dreams that I have envisioned for the grand story of my life.” – **Michael S. Horton, *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World***

II. THE MOST DANGEROUS LIFE: THE “SPIRITUAL” ISN’T “REAL”

III. TRUTHS TO FIGHT THAT LIE

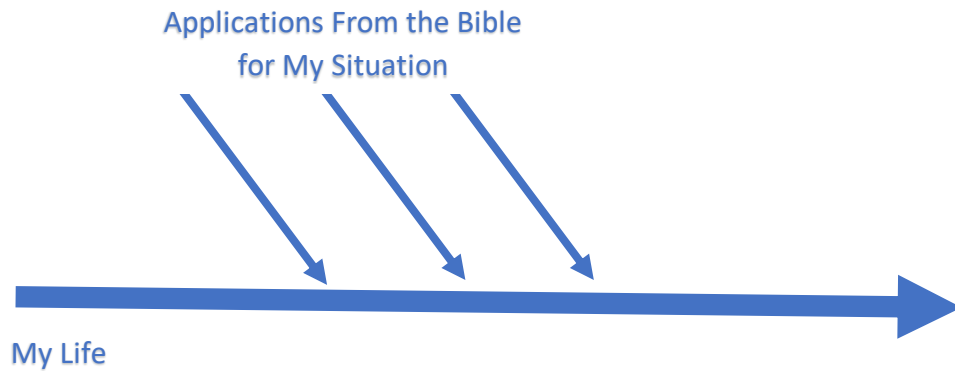
- God is the God of the Real
 - ¹⁰ Then Moses said to the Lord, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” ¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? (Exodus 4:10-11)

- God made both your body and soul and cares for both
 - ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (Luke 12:27-31)

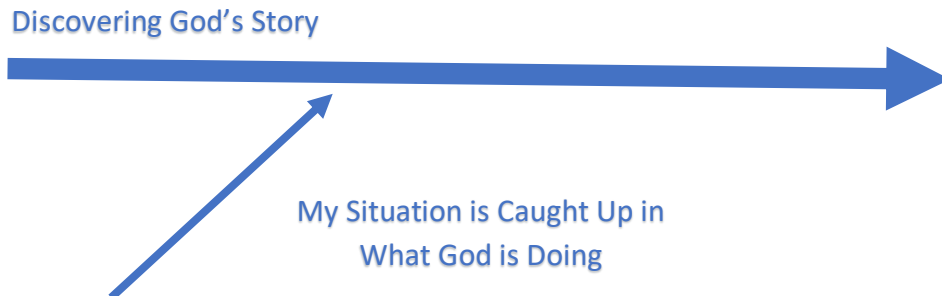
- God himself has entered “normal” life
 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin**. (Heb 4:15)

IV. WHOSE STORY IS IT?

- Reading the Bible: Looking for where God comes into my story



- Reading the Bible: Looking for where I fit into God's story



V. GOD'S STORY

- Creation

- Fall

- Redemption

- Consummation

VI. MY PLACE IN GOD'S STORY

- A New Identity

- New Questions

- New Goals

“Work is not a curse. The curse affects work, but work remains a gift from a gracious God. We were created for work, and we were created for work in an astoundingly fruitful world. In short, the grace of God leads to salvation and salvation leads to good works. As we consider this, we ought not to limit the phrase “good works” to helping little old ladies across the street or volunteering at soup kitchens. Those are included, certainly, but good works also include good work. Good works include turning a table leg on a lathe, or solving a mathematical problem, or shoveling out the barn. In sum, good works include, necessarily, the blessing of good work.”

— *Douglas Wilson, Ploductivity: A Practical Theology of Work & Wealth*

“Even our common callings in the world are not really our own, but they are God’s work of supplying others — including ourselves — with what the whole society needs. There is a lot of work to be done, but it is his work that he is doing through us in daily and mostly ordinary ways.”

— *Michael S. Horton, Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World*

VII. FINDING MYSELF WITHIN GOD’S STORY IN DAILY READING

- Praying the Bible – Donald Whitney
- The Bible draws me into God’s story because it changes my priorities to be more like God’s priorities and shows me my place in what God is doing.

VIII. CONCLUSION: WE SEE THE BIBLE AS SUFFICIENT WHEN WE LIVE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

- So, **whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do**, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)