

Devotion 9: Go to Jesus to Find Life's Purpose

Audience: For Patient and Caregiver

Theme: Go to Jesus and learn from him!

Bible Passage: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Devotion: One reason we become discouraged with our lives is that we often fail to discover any real purpose for our very being. As Solomon writes: *I have seen all things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind* (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 15). We may feel these words aptly describe our lives since we just don't understand why God has put us where we are.

There are many people in the Bible who likely didn't suspect what God was doing in their lives. One name comes to mind in the New Testament: Simon of Cyrene. Matthew, Mark and Luke all mention Simon in their record of Christ's crucifixion. In Mark 15:21 we read: *A certain man from Cyrene, Simon the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.* Simon never dreamed that God had a special purpose for his life—to carry his Savior's cross to Calvary!

In the book of Joshua we are introduced to Rahab, a harlot from Jericho. Little did she suspect the role she would play in God's plan to secure Israel in the promised land of Canaan. Nor could she possibly imagine that she would be an ancestor of Christ and listed among the heroes of faith.

While none of us will be called upon to serve as did Simon and Rahab, still God has a purpose for every soul he calls his own.

There is meaning and purpose in our lives only to the extent we are being guided by the Word of our Lord. *In our hearts set aside Christ as Lord* (1 Peter 3:15). When we do just that, the meaning or purpose in our lives begins to unfold. We may not see it during this life, but others may. God will make it known when we get to heaven. *Then we shall know fully, even as we are fully known* (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Paul writes: *We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28). These words apply to all believers.

Lord, all the days of my life were written in your book before one of them came to be. You have a purpose for me. Amen.

Bible Readings: Psalm 139:1-16; Jeremiah 1:4,5; Acts 9:1-19.