

# **You Were Chosen on Purpose!**

It's not too late to fulfill God's call on your life!



Star Wars: Luke & Obi-Wan

# You Were Chosen on Purpose!

- We were created for significance
- We don't believe that we can do it:
  - I don't have what it takes
  - I've messed up too badly
  - I don't know enough
- We talk ourselves out of our calling, our destiny, our passions, and our dreams

# You Were Chosen on Purpose!

“Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead...”

Galatians 1:1

- God chose Paul to minister to the Gentiles in the 1st century.
- This makes sense, Paul was amazing
- **You** have been **sent** by God. God has **chosen you!**

# Paul wasn't good enough

- Watches the stoning of Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
- Acts 9 he is “still breathing out murderous threats.”
- Saul/Paul in complete opposition to God.
- “Saint Paul” or “Chief of Sinners”

# Galatians 1:11-17

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation.

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, **how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.** I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles...**”

# **Gideon didn't have what it takes**

- Time of the judges. After Israel takes the Promised Land & before the monarchy.
- Israelites were bad at being faithful to God.
- Midianites were crushing the Israelites.
- God chooses Gideon to save Israel.
- Gideon hiding in a winepress



Gideon was hiding in a winepress maybe like this one.

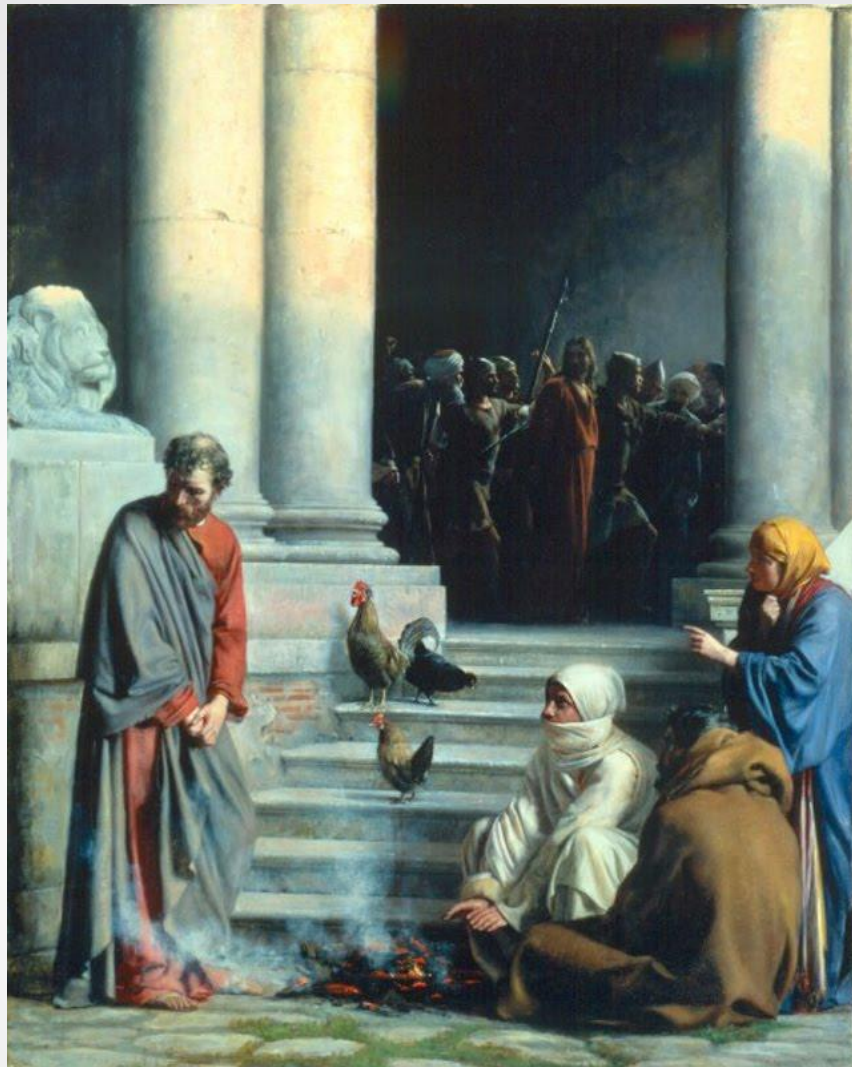


# Gideon

- “The Lord is with you mighty warrior!”
- Gideon had some doubts:
  - How can I save Israel?
  - My clan is the weakest in Manasseh.
  - I am the least in my family.
  - A round loaf of barley
- Gideon raises up a big army
- God whittles down the army to 300
- Gideon leads the Israelites to victory

# Peter was a failure

- One of the first disciples
- Saw Jesus heal his mother-in-law
- Peter walked on the water, then
- Declared, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!”
- Mount of Transfiguration
- Peter was passionate
- Matthew 26
  - “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will!”
  - “This very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”



Peter's Denial, painted by Ron di Gianni

# Jesus reinstates Peter (John 21:15-17)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

# **God has chosen you on purpose!**

- You have not messed up too much
- You have what it takes
- You have not fallen too far for Jesus to use you!
- He is not surprised by what you have done
- Ephesians 1:11
- Romans 8:29-30
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4