

DYING FOR PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION:

"I was choking on something and gagged too. There were tubes in my nose. In my throat. Sensors beeping all around me. I had no idea where I was. I couldn't move anything on my body.

My eyes worked. I could see my father in the corner of the room, bags under his eyes, hadn't shaved. You could tell he'd been under duress.

The first words out of my mouth, 'how did I do in the game?' After a long pause my Father spoke through tired eyes, 'You didn't play, you broke your neck.'

That's when I realized I had died. That's when I realized my dreams were shattered. That's when I came alive to my deep need for purpose.

Introduce Myself: My name is Micah. I serve alongside over 500 team members who are advancing the gospel and serving the poor through Vapor Ministries. On behalf my team & family we're glad to be with you all. Welcome online. Here or there, turn to your neighbor, say "good to be at ? Church." 2nd choice, "I guess they welcome everybody here."

Some of you I know, some I don't but we have 2 things in common. 1. Love Your Pastor. 2. I bet you want to live a meaningful life. *We were wired by God to **walk a purpose filled path.***

But there's a problem. A **wide road** invites us to waste our lives. *Most **walk into the grave void of purpose.***

But your different. Your here because you want your life to matter. I am here to spur you on. Today I want to share 2 life giving truths in a talk we'll call **DYING FOR PURPOSE.**

Turn back to your 2nd choice, "you need to take some notes today."

Transition: Good times often follow bad moments. In similar fashion our first truth is sobering. Stay tuned, good news is coming.

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I. DEATH PRECEDES PURPOSE

NOTE: your plan for your life produces death.

Scripture: Proverbs 14:12 NLT *"There is a path before each person that seems right, but **it ends in death.**"*

NOTE: Jesus used illustrations to help heavenly truths land on earth.

Scripture: John 12:24 NIV *"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat **falls to the ground and dies**, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."*

Illustrate: Seed must be buried & die. If not, it withers away a single seed.

NOTE: God designed the seed to reproduce. To live beyond itself, it must die to itself.

Quote: "A life dedicated to self ends with self."

NOTE: Yet culture say's do you. And I was all about me.

- **My Dream: My gain. My glory.**
 - **Assets & Accolades.**
 - Wanted to be a light skinned Deon.
 - Sports were my ticket. Played them all. All about me.
 - Conversation with Dad
 - I broke my neck.
 - I woke up in ICU.

Quote: ...that's when I realized I had died. That's when I realized my dreams were shattered. That's how I came alive to purpose.

Quote: "My lust, for my life, my way, needed to die."

NOTE: But Jesus knew that before I did.

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Scripture: Matthew 16:25 NLT "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you **give up your life** for my sake, you will save it."

Question: What in my life needs to die?

Posture: I surrender.

Take-Away: Let life's author write your script.

Transition: When we die to our plans & rise to His purpose we truly live...

II. PURPOSE PRODUCES LIFE

Scripture: John 12:24 NLT "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives."

Quote: We exchange our plan, that leads to death, for His purpose which produces life.

Question: Do you believe His purpose is better than your plan?

Illustration: Entered marriage on diet of Dew & Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. My bride came in eating pine nuts & tree bark. Healthy spouses? My kids, raised on seaweed and kale. Intro Family. I offered Arrow a twinkie. He said "NO." **Stuck on his plan he missed Daddy's good purpose.**

NOTE: How often do we settle for familiar and miss God's best?

Quote: "Exchanging your dream for His purpose isn't sacrifice, its smart."

NOTE: God's **purpose gave life to our faith heroes.** For Paul real life and purpose were inextricably link.

Scripture: Acts 20:24 NLT "But **my life is** worth nothing to me unless I use it **for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus**-the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."

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Scripture: Romans 6:13b NLT "...give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but **now you have new life**. So, use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God."

Quote: "Christ death saves our souls. God's **purpose fuels our lives**."

Quote: I had to die to come alive to His purpose for me...

- God opened my eyes to...
 - **His Heart for The Lost:** "Jesus came to seek ..."
 - **His Heart for The Poor:** "2000 times"
- In 05 my eyes were opened to extreme poverty. To precious people surviving on \$1.90 **third-world poverty** (Velma)
- God revealed His **purpose for me**. He gave life to a **vision**

Example: Your Pastor's Heart Globally: **Life Yielding Impact**

Quote: "Purpose Produces Life"

NOTE: Life is a vapor. It's too short to live disconnected from purpose.

Quote: "Don't waste your life on things that won't outlive it."

Take-Away: Walk your purpose onto life's path.

CONCLUSION:

God invites us to come alive to the very thing we're all dying for **Purpose**.

- **Believer:** You have 1 life. It's a vapor. Run hard. Stay the course.
- **Seeker:** You're at a crossroad. A path awaits you. At the trail head stands a cross. The one who hung there invites you to come. He died on purpose. He rose again for a purpose. You.
 - I acknowledge my need for you.
 - I confess my sin before you.
 - I believe you died and rose again.
 - I trust in you. I turn from my path and I follow you.