

## Eyes to See Beauty in the Mess

### I. The Tapestry—The Front is Beautiful, the Back is a Mess.

Life is often understood looking backward, but must be lived forward. Some things that seem meaningless are only understood in the length of time. God works with His purpose in mind.

**Rom 8.28** **ESV** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (πρόθεσις –that which is planned or purposed in advance. )

His **Purpose** is Calling Us.

Your part of His story

Your role in Eternity

**Matt 11.11** **ESV** Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.  
**12** From the days of John the Baptist **until now** the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

**Luke 16.16** **ESV** “The Law and the Prophets were **until** John; **since then** the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.

### II. Confused Lives Can Have Awesome Impact

**Squanto** c. **1605**—Squanto, a Patuxet Indian lad is taken from his home near Plymouth, Massachusetts, to England, where he learns English, is part of an Indian exhibition, and generally longs to return to his home.

He is sent back to the Canadian and New England Coasts to act as an interpreter and a guide around **1614**. When the ships he is with finally reach the area of his village he is allowed to go free.

However, he is soon tricked onto another ship, which sets sail for Malaga, Spain, where he is auctioned at the slave market. Fortunately, some Spanish friars are purchasing Indians and setting them free. **These Friars introduce him to Jesus**. He then uses his English

to find a ship to England. Once in England, Squanto finds work again as an interpreter and guide on a trading ship.

He reaches New England in **early 1620** and is devastated to realize that his entire village is deserted, all the people were killed by a plague the previous year. He is the last surviving Patuxet. Alone and broken hearted he is befriended by Samoset, who is living in a neighboring Wampanoag village.

In **late 1620**, the Pilgrims arrive at the harbor. Almost half die that first winter. In the spring when the settlers are attempting to build homes and lay out a village, Samoset and Squanto make themselves known. Squanto chooses to live with the English. He shows them how to cultivate and cook corn, shows them where the fish and eels are easy to catch, and teaches them the ways of the native Americans.

**Through Squanto, a peace treaty is negotiated with the Wampanoag people** which will last more than 50 years. Without Squanto, the Plymouth Plantation would probably have failed.

**Squanto died of a fever in November 1622** and asked William Bradford to pray for him “that I might go to the Englishman’s God in heaven.”

The first time he was captured he learned **English**. The second time, he was freed by gentle Christians who taught him to **trust in Jesus**.

Though his own people had died of sickness, God had sent him to a new people who built their colony where his old village once stood.

**Without Squanto, there might be no America!**

**Tamar**—That one crazy thing she did!

**Matt 1.1 NIV** A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, **whose mother was Tamar**, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

**Gen 38.6 NIV** Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

Er and Onan were both bad. Judah wouldn't give her his third son. She tricked her father-in-law by dressing as a prostitute and conceived. When Judah found out she was pregnant, he was going to have her burned to death, but she had undeniable evidence that Judah was the papa. Oh my.

Well, she didn't just get one child, she got twin sons and Perez —whose name means "**Breakthrough**" was in the lineage of Christ!!

**Jesus wouldn't have been born without Tamar!!**

I believe that if I were **Squanto**, or I were **Tamar**, I would have had a hard time seeing the significance of my life.

What on earth would I have thought when so many setbacks occurred surrounded by so much hostility?

Where was the evidence of God's loving Hand guiding my way?

But somewhere, beyond time and space was the **CALLING** of God's Eternal Purpose

And somewhere **deep in my being is a Receiver** that God has built into me. **He is weaving me into His Plan for the Ages and for the Nations of the Earth.** He is preparing and refining me to be the Bride who sits and Reigns forever with His Son!

**God never forgets our "downline" Every tiny seed of love we have sown carries eternity within.**

**How do I tune in to His Purpose?**

### **III. Gratitude "Forces" Open the Kingdom**

#### **A. Gratitude Prepares The Way for deliverance**

**Psalm 50:23 NIV** He who **sacrifices thank offerings** honors me, and he **prepares the way** so that I may show him the salvation of God."

**ESV** The one who **offers thanksgiving** as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who **orders his way** rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

Our GRATITUDE gives the Holy Spirit permission to release the Kingdom!

**Philippians 4:6 NIV** Do not be anxious about **anything**, but in **everything**, by prayer and petition, ***with thanksgiving***, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **B. Gratitude keeps us connected to the treasures in Christ**

**Col 2.1 ESV** For I want you to know how **great a struggle** I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, **2** that their **hearts may be encouraged**, being **knit together in love**, to reach **all the riches** of **full assurance** of **understanding** and the **knowledge** of God's mystery, which is **Christ**, **3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. **4** I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ...

**6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, ***abounding in thanksgiving***.

**NIV** ... and ***overflowing with thankfulness***.

**Psalms 100:4 NIV** Enter his gates with ***thanksgiving*** and his courts with praise; ***give thanks*** to him and praise his name.

***Thank you connects with GRACE.***

## **IV. Gratitude Presses into the Purposes...**

### **A. When Things Look Really Bad**

**Daniel 6:9 NIV** So King Darius put the decree in writing. **10** Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, ***giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before***.

### **B. When You Feel Like You're Dying**

**Jonah 2:7 NIV** "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. **8** "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. **9** But I, with a ***song of thanksgiving***, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord." **10** And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

## IV. Ministry To The Lord

**Psalm 50:23 NIV** He who *sacrifices thank offerings* honors me, and he **prepares the way** so that I may show him the salvation of God."

**ESV** The one who *offers thanksgiving* as his sacrifice glorifies me;  
to one who orders his way rightly  
I will show the salvation of God!"

OPEN MY EYES!!

Whatever we concentrate on concentrates on us.

Whatever we move toward, moves toward us.

**OUR WORDS BECOME WORLDS.**

Let's come to him in THANKSGIVING

All who are weary... come to me and I will give you rest

All who thirst... come to me and drink and out of your belly will flow

**Eph 1.17 NIV** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray also that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you, the **riches** of his glorious **inheritance** in the saints, **19** and his incomparably great **power** for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, **20** which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.