DIVINE DESTINY

John 14:25-29; 15:15-17; 16:12-15

INTRO: There is a lot of discussion about purpose these days. We see many without purpose and we recognize how hopeless life is without that. Motivation, goals, dreams all seem to fall into place when we find purpose. I've noticed in my life how my purposes have dramatically changed from time to time. I don't want to get too much into semantics but I have thought a lot about destiny lately. As I read the scriptures both old and new I am caught up in the stories of men who received a glimpse of their destiny from God. It drove Abraham, Joseph, the prophets, and the apostles. It really drove Jesus whole life. Let's look at a secular definition of DESTINE: (be destined) 1 be intended or chosen for a particular purpose or end: he was destined to be an engineer. 2 bound for a particular destination. -ORIGIN originally in the sense 'predetermine, decree': from Latin destinare 'make firm, establish'. DESTINY >noun (pl. destinies) 1 *the events that will happen to a person, regarded as predetermined by fate.* <u>2 *the hidden power believed to control this; fate*</u>. -ORIGIN Latin destinata, from destinare 'make firm, establish.' Now, let's look at PURPOSE: 1 the reason for which something is done or for which something exists. 2 resolve or determination. Maybe the difference is slight, but resolve or determination can actually keep me from having the plan of God fulfilled in my life. We won't get hung up on that, but I do see many times in scripture that there are events of which the purpose of those events is only explainable in light of God's destiny. Joseph's pit, Abraham's Isaac, Jacob's limp, Moses' wilderness. None of those were their destinies but they sure fit a purpose of God. If you are more comfortable with "a calling" or a "plan" for your life, so am I. Words don't matter but the truths of the concept do. I see destiny as this: The divine blueprint, order and pull on your life that God has ordained that give purpose to the events in your life. This is really evident in the life of Jesus. Let's look:

JESUS DESTINY: Let's begin at Luke 2:49. The story preceding this is that Mary and Joseph have gone up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. They leave and travel a whole day and find Jesus is not with them. When they find Him this is what happens: "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." 49 And He said to them, *"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them*. Let's get a sense of the divine destiny of Jesus: I'm going to ask you to read these passages at home. I'll try to give some themes. John 11:49-52 (Caiaphas "prophesied that Jesus would die); John 12: 14-15 (Jesus rides on the donkey "as it is written"); John 12: 37-40 (they do not believe the miracles as Isaiah wrote); John 13:18 (he who eats bread with Me will lift up his heel against Me.); John 13:27 (what you do, do quickly); John 13:38 (Peter will deny Him three times); John 19: 23-24 (they divided My garments among them and for My garments cast lots); John 19:28 (that the scripture might be fulfilled Jesus said "I thirst"). We see the absolute will of God being brought into existence here. Jesus was not worshiping His destiny, He was just so in tune with the Father's set established order for His life, that it drove Him in His everyday living. It is the God of the destiny, not the destiny that we worship and are engaged with. Jesus was always living in the flow of what His Father was performing.

RULERS DESTINY: There are two recordings in Luke, Luke 15:34, and 19:41 that indicate how even the most religious can miss it!! In Luke 15:34 Jesus tells how He wanted to gather them as a hen gathers her chicks but they WOULD NOT!! Not that they could not, they *would not!* Jesus was calling and desiring to *move in their lives but they would not respond. Then in Luke 19:41-44 Jesus says:*

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in

this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, "

[44] and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.

When Jesus "wept", this word in the Greek is the strongest word for weep. It is to mourn and wail aloud as one for the dead would weep. When He says "if you had known", it is ginosko, (felt, had a relationship with your knowledge). Did not "know the time"- the word time means set event or appointment... and when He says of "your visitation" the word used is "episkope" from the idea of Bishop. That means examination but also according to Kohlenberg, "covering". Now there are passages that seem to indicate that they couldn't help it. I find a closer look may give a different view. That their lack of response caused their eyes and ears to be shut. John 9:39-41 [39] And Jesus said, *"For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." [40] Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, [e]and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" [41] Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains*. There are more things I want to explore on this subject at another time.

OUR DESTINY: Let me clarify something right away. Destiny is not something we seek. Everything I read about it came on God's move, not man's. It would be easy to get off the present working of God in my life and miss everything He is doing day by day, in search of some grand plan. No, destiny is again that divine order, scheme and pull of God in my life to bring me to His place or "chair" in which He wants to set me. Destiny may be stated by God, but it's not an achievement on my part. It is often revealed one step at a time. Abraham was given a promise, but he was not told all at that time. Joseph was given a promise but he was not told all. Yet, God wants to reveal Himself in new ways in my life on a day by day basis that lead me to His destiny for my life. If there are steps, and I'm not sure of that, I would set them out as this:

LET GO OF OUR OLD PATTERNS: We create patterns in our lives by walking in darkness, or ignorance. When He offers light, you MUST respond to it. John 11:9-10 says: [9] Jesus answered, *"Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. [10] But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." And then in John 12:35-36: [35] Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. [36] While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."* These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. When God reveals truth to you through His word or the ministry of the body, you need to respond to that. Hear God, and believe God.

KNOW WE ARE CHOSEN: In John 1: 36-50, we read the calling of the first disciples. Jesus reveals His involvement and desire for them. Andrew, Phillip, Nathanael, Peter are all pulled in to the beginning of His divine plan and destiny. *You too are chosen!* John 15:16 says: [16] *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and* ***appointed*** *you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.* This word appointed, is the word for destined or even predestined. You are here today for a specific reason. Beyond that He is calling all of us to know this work is His work, Any effort is His effort and we are chosen not to **make** fruit but to <u>*bear*</u> fruit.

KNOW HE WANTS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU: John 14:26, 29: *[26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit,*

whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. [29] *"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.* This Phrase "comes to pass" means created (ginomai). Jesus is saying that He has told us that before things are brought or created into existence, He will share them so that when they are created they will believe. John 16: 13-15: [13] *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.* [14] *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.* [15] *All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.* As I read this it says that Jesus through the Holy Spirit wants to take all that the Father has given Him, and declare it unto us. <u>You do not have to walk in old patterns, you are chosen, and He desires to reveal the Father to you</u>. Our teaching has been too long that we live in blind faith. Jesus three times in Luke alone, (9th and 18th chapter told His disciples what was going to happen to Him. They could not really get it, but it is up for debate why. As a friend wrote to me, it may have been more about what their concept of Him, what they wanted to believe about Him was, than it was that they couldn't get it. God do not let <u>my</u> concept of how you should move in my life blind me to how <u>you want</u> to move and are revealing yourself, and your destiny for me.

1. What are the ways in which God has revealed His divine blueprint in my life?
2. What times as I look back, do I now see how Jesus was working in my life, that I didn't see at the time?
3. Am I willing to put aside *my* concept of Him, if He says something different than what I want to hear?