

I met a woman in the parking lot at Kroger the other day. She was lifting a fifty-pound boy from his carseat into a wheelchair. I told her she had a very handsome son and bent down to ask him his age. That's when I noticed his arms and hands were so deformed that he couldn't straighten them out. His face, although smiling, told me he didn't understand what I was asking. His body shook with mild spasms. The woman explained that she had met him when he was three years old. At that time, he weighed only ten pounds. She and her husband had already raised their children and they brought this boy to the U.S. as his guardians. They hope to find him an adoptive family.

I left the brief conversation thinking so many things. I often wonder how I'll serve when I'm done raising kids. I'd like to visit a friend who's a missionary in Uganda or perhaps meet my Compassion child from Kenya. Some friends adopted two children from Haiti, and I can see myself rocking babies at their orphanage. Sometimes I wish I was an R.N. so that I could go on a medical mission trip – I guess I feel like nurses are probably more needed than what I would have to offer. And I think about where I can make a difference in Lenawee County.

But Dan's message reminded me that I need to bless God in the small things, too. I recently read a Bible verse to one of my kids about doing everything without complaining or arguing . . . and thought about how many times I complain and/or argue in front of my kids or with coworkers. It's in these daily opportunities that I often fail. Jesus taught in the Parable of the Talents: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21) Someday I might serve overseas, but for now I want to be faithful in the day-to-day places God has called me to serve.

**Questions to consider:**

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Am I loving God, even in the little things? How do I show it?

I have a friend that buys used baby clothes at thrift stores, washes them, and then donates them to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. What does it look like for me to serve God right where I'm at? (This will look different for each of us.)

How many seeds do I fail to plant? How many opportunities do I miss because I don't take the time, or I'm afraid?

Is my life producing fruit?

**This month's memory verse:** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Col 3:23-24 TNIV)*

**Additional verses:** *Colossians 3:23, Matthew 13:31-32, Matthew 25:21*

**Reminders:**

**9.11** – **The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!** *Passionate Purpose II.* This week we will take time to remember the horrible tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The world will pause this day as we walk into the 10 year anniversary. Join us as we remember and reflect on how God leads us through tragedy in pursuit of passionate and purpose filled living.

**9.18** – **3rd:culture Night!** *1MOSAIC's "FREE 4 ALL!!!"* God has blessed so many of us with so much. So here is an opportunity to give back to our community. We will be hosting a 'Free 4 All' yard sale in the parking lot of the 5/6 building from 6-8pm...bring your stuff...cost for everyone = FREE!

**9.25** – **The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!** *Passionate Purpose III.* We wrap up our three part series talking about living out a Jesus filled passion & purpose in the 'big' things! How do we incorporate more of Jesus into our roles as students, spouses, parents, co-workers & more!?