

Picked For A Purpose
July 5, 2026

Welcome back to our series entitled Sacred Service, we are transitioning from what we learned from our previous series of sacred rest to one of active service. "We've been learning about Sacred Rest. But rest was never meant to be the destination. We rest in Jesus so His life overflows through us in Sacred Service, Spesho Service."

And today, I'll remind you that God doesn't create any two people the same. No mo nobody like you and there will never be another like you ever again. When God created you, He wen broke the mold. In fact, go tell the person next to you, you are special fo God! Tell, your other neighbor I'm special fo God, and I know some of you are spesho looking. God saw a need on earth and created you to meet that need in the world you are in. We just gotta figure what that is! Cuz God picks us, if you let um, fo one amazing purpose! That's what I'll talk about today. In this message entitled Picked for a Purpose.

But first, can I share one proud daddy moment with you?

This is a real special season for my ohana. My son, Clarke, recently completed his Internal Medicine residency here in Hawai'i. And at his recognition ceremony, he was honored as Resident of the Year and was selected to serve as Chief Resident at The Queen's Medical Center this coming year. **(PIC)** On top of that, he's getting married this summer, and I have the privilege of officiating his wedding. Dass my boy!

And then there's my daughter, Kanoelani. After seven years of serving with Cru a ministry reaching out to college students at UH Manoa and UH West O'ahu, God is calling her to a new ministry role supporting campus ministry

staff throughout New Zealand and the South Pacific. So this summer, we'll be celebrating my boy getting married and gaining a daughter and my precious girl moving halfway across the pacific to make a difference for Jesus. (**all PICS**).

As proud as I am of my kids, it's not just because of what they've accomplished. It's because I'm watching them become who God created them to be.

And that made me think... if that's how me, an earthly father feels, how much more does our Heavenly Father delight when His kids discover the purpose He created them for and begin bearing fruit that brings glory to Him?

And even when life is hard, you know you're doing what God created you to do, God delights in that as well.

Now maybe you're thinking, "Pastor, that sounds nice, but I'm buss up. I've made some wrong decisions. I'm tired. I don't even know if I'm living out God's purpose anymore."

If that's you, hear me. Jesus isn't disappointed in you. He doesn't tell the weary to try harder. He simply says,

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you... For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light and you'll find rest for your soul" (Matthew 11:28 – 30 NIV).

Our Father's love for you doesn't depend on how productive you've been. He loves you just as much on your worst day as on your best.

So where do we begin? Remember PMark's teaching in wk 1, The Vine and the Branches? About staying tight with the Vine, that's Jesus, and then what happens, **We bear fruit.**

But here's the question... **What's the fruit for? I want to answer that today.** Let's read: John 15:16 – 17

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other (John 15:16 – 17 NLT)

Listen again to how da Da Good An Spesho Book puts it:

You guys neva pick me. I wen pick you guys, an give you dis job: go do plenny good stuff dat goin las long time, jalike one grape vine dat give plenny good fruit long time. . . So den, dis wat I tell you guys fo do: get love an aloha fo each odda.

So what Jesus wen pick us fo do? That's right—fo do "plenny good stuff dat goin las long time."

Did you catch that? He tells us: **"Get love an aloha fo each odda."**

(Keynote)

Let me ask you one question. You think one grape vine produces grapes just so we can stand back and tell, "Ho, nice! Choke plenny grapes dat vine get!?" No! The grapes are meant to be picked, shared, make good wine.

Just think about that for a moment: God wen pick you and me fo show His love to somebody else. That's right! Which brings up one important question: If Jesus picked us to love one another, stop fighting with each other, and comparing yourself to others. Just love each other.

And how do we dat? PT set us up real good last week. She reminded us dat God had a purpose and a plan for our lives long before we were even born.

As PT reminded us last week, Paul tells the church guys in Ephesus, we are saved by grace and created in Christ Jesus for the good works God prepared long ago.”

God already planned and pick us to do good things in and through us from long time befo time.

So after He saves us, He sends us out to do good kine things!

So what's God's plan for you and me? Start with where God has already placed you. You think you're in your family, your school, your workplace, your neighborhood by accident? No way!

So if we've received God's grace, his goodness, and if we're da fruit of His grace and goodness, then let's show love and aloha through who we are right now.

- If you're a teacher, be da best teacher and show love and aloha to your students.
- If you're a mechanic, show love and aloha through the work of your hands.
- If you're a boss, show love and aloha to the people you lead.
- If you're an office worker, show love and aloha to your coworkers.
- If you're a student, be da bestess student and honor God with your learning.
- If you're a parent, show love and aloha to your kids. If you're a kid, show love and aloha to your parents.

That's da fruit! God uses ordinary people in ordinary places to express His extraordinary love. And every one of us has a unique assignment.

For me, I want God to help me be da bestest pastor, da bestest Pidgin talka fo God, da bestest husband, and da bestest father. Does dat make sense? Whatever God has called you to do, do it with love and aloha.

People may not read their Bible, but they're reading our lives. And da biggest proof dat we belong to Jesus is when we show love and aloha to one another.

I want share with you the last and important parable Jesus told. And this wasn't a parable Jesus told to the crowds. This was one of His final teachings to His closest followers, during His last week before the cross. So let me ask: How many of you are followers of Jesus? Raise your hand. Good. Then lissen up good, because this parable is for you.

Jesus knows He's leaving soon. And He wants His followers to understand one thing: So this is the story you ready: Get four characters!

14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

16 “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 17The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. 18But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

I'll summarize the rest of the parable:

Now Jesus says, after a long time, the owner comes back. And when he returns, he calls each servant to give an account of what they did with what he entrusted to them.

The first servant says, “Boss, you gave me five bags of silver, and look, I we get five more.”

And the Boss tells, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. You were faithful with what I gave you. Now I’m going to entrust you with more. Come and share in my joy.”

Then the second servant comes and tells, “Boss, I wen get two bags of silver from you and look, I get two more.”

The master gives him the same praise. Not less praise because he had less. The same praise: “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

That tells us something important. God is not comparing the five-talent servant with the two-talent servant. The question is not, “Did you have as much as somebody else?” The question is, “Were you faithful with what I gave you?”

But then the third servant comes. The one who received one bag silver. And he tells, “Boss, I know you are harsh, and I was sked. So I wen bury what you wen give me. Hea, I give um back to you!

In other words, “I didn’t lose it. I just didn’t use it.”

And that’s when the Boss scolds him. Not because he had less. Not because he tried and failed. But because he neva do nothing with what the Boss wen trust him fo do. Now I pick up the story with this response from Jesus.

29To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

So church, **the warning** of the parable is this: what God gives us is not meant to be hidden. It is meant to be used, invested, poured out, and multiplied for His purposes.

But the encouragement is this: God is not asking you to be faithful with someone else's assignment. He's asking you to be faithful with yours.

Now some of you thinking, "Pastor, I no mo talents." No, you do. Jesus is so clear that every servant was entrusted with something. Some received more, some received less, but that's not the point.

So what are we doing with what God has entrusted to you and me with?

Your talents. Your resources. Your time. Your opportunities.

Remember, if you're a follower of Jesus, this parable is for us.

It's both a warning and an encouragement. Jesus is saying, "What I've entrusted to you isn't really yours—it's Mine. So use it. Invest it. Pour it out."

Church ohana, I want you to hear a real-life story of someone who discovered that God had been preparing her purpose long before she even knew it. Can you welcome our dear Sistah and my ministry partner in HPBM, Ipo Sarpomones?

Ipo, before you came to know Jesus, what was your life like?

Let her tell:

- separation from Albert
- pain
- plans to move to Vegas
- uncertainty

How did God begin drawing you back—not only to Albert, but to Himself?

This allows her to share:

- Albert's changed life
- seeing fruit in someone else
- curiosity about Jesus
- eventual surrender

I remember asking Albert what sports he liked, and he gave me one whole list. Then I asked you, "What about you?" And you said something I'll never forget. What did you say?

"I danced hula all my life."

And neither of us knew at the time that God had been preparing that gift for His purposes all along.

So how is God using that gift today?

Ipo to share: (**Share pics**)

- Hula ministry and choreography
- discipling others
- Hawai'i Pidgin Bible Ministries

Church, do you see what happened?

God didn't waste anything, Not her pain, Not her broken marriage., Not her years dancing hula, Not even the detours. God was preparing her all along for the good works He had planned beforehand.

And now I want you to see that fruit. The same gift that Ipo once thought was just part of her old life has now become a way for her to worship Jesus and help others know Him.

We are creating Pidgin Christian music with Hula. Fo Hawaii, see Jesus.
(Welcome Ipo fo share her fruit!)

You know, as I watched that, I think about what Jesus said:

"You neva pick me. I wen pick you an give you dis job: go do plenny good stuff dat goin las long time "

Church, God picked Ipo for a purpose. And God picked you for a purpose too.

God neva waste notting.

So today, I want to invite you to respond. Jesus didn't pick you to sit on the vine. He picked you to bear fruit—and fruit that will last.

If you're a follower of Jesus and you're willing to say, "Lord, I don't want to hide what You've entrusted to me anymore. I want to use my life, my gifts, my talents, my time, and my resources for Your purposes," would you just open your hands before the Lord right now?

And maybe you're here today and you've never responded to Jesus' invitation. Maybe you've been trying to figure out your purpose on your own. Hear this: your purpose doesn't begin with what you do. It begins with who you belong to.

Jesus said, "Come to me."

The God who created you loves you. He chose you. He died for you. And He has plans for you—not just for this life, but forever.

If today you want to begin a relationship with Jesus, to receive His forgiveness and His new life, I want to invite you to simply say yes to Him right now.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for choosing us before we ever chose You.

Thank You for loving us, saving us by Your grace, and creating us for a purpose.

Forgive us for the times we've hidden what You've entrusted to us.

Today, we offer You our lives again.

Use our gifts. Use our talents. Use our time. Use our stories.

Use our successes and even our failures to bear fruit that will last.

And for those saying yes to Jesus today, thank You for welcoming them into Your family. Help them stay connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ, and discover the amazing purpose You have prepared for them from long before time.

Lord, may we one day hear those words we long to hear:

"Well done, my good and faithful servant." In Jesus name, Dass it!

Small Group Discussion Questions and Prayer Guide:

1. **Jesus said, "You didn't choose me. I wen pick you...to go and produce lasting fruit."**
Where have you seen God bearing fruit through your life already, even in ordinary places like your family, workplace, school, church, or neighborhood?
2. **The sermon says, "People may not read their Bible, but they're reading our lives."**

Who is one person God may be calling you to show more love and aloha to this week, and what would that look like in a practical way?

3. **In the Parable of the Talents, the issue wasn't how much each servant received, but what they did with what was entrusted to them.**

What is one gift, opportunity, story, relationship, or resource God has entrusted to you that you may have been holding back or hiding?

4. **God didn't waste Ipo's pain, her story, or her hula; He used it for His purposes.**

What part of your story—success, struggle, talent, or even failure—do you sense God may want to redeem and use to bless others?

Prayer response:

At the end, have each person share one specific action step they want to take this week. Then pair up or gather in groups of three and pray for one another:

“Lord, help my brother/sister not hide what You have entrusted to them.

Give them courage to use their gifts, time, story, and love to bear fruit that lasts. Amen.”