

Overcoming the Dark Side

Facing our Shadow Purpose with Jesus and his people

Key Point: In the unique calling that God has for us with our unique skill set, there is a decoy or shadow purpose that we can easily accept if we are not aware and vigilant. Walking with Jesus and his people helps identify, stop and overcome the shadows and decoys in our life and prepares us to live out of the true purpose Jesus has for each of us.

Key Scriptures:

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Esther 4:14

Psalms 23

Matthew 26:39

1. Without a purpose, we flounder

Like a tumbleweed, without a clear vision and a purpose, we roam the planet adrift, tossed and turned by the values and cultures the world has to offer.

Jeremiah 17:6

Jeremiah 17:7,8

Proverbs 11:28

Colossians 1:16

We are tempted by our shadow purpose

Our shadow purpose is usually not too far from our skills and strengths, which is why it is often hard to detect on our own.

DECOY: a person or thing used to mislead or lure an animal or person into a trap.

SHADOW PURPOSE: is an authentic mission that has been derailed, often in imperceptible ways. Part of what makes the shadow purpose so tempting is that it's usually so closely related to our gifts and passions. It's not 180 degrees off track; it is just 10 degrees off track. John Ortberg

Jeremiah 17: 9

Esther 4:14

Matthew 13:

We need courage to rise up and overcome the dark side of our shadow purpose

We all have a dark side that is hidden in the shadows because we all have brokenness. Being aware of our shadow purpose and the decoys that come our way, is critical to bring the light of Christ into our shadows, but we can't do this alone. We need humility, Jesus and community.

Jeremiah 17:10

Psalms 139:23/24

James 1:12

With Jesus, we find our purpose and flourish

Jesus' shadow purpose was to be Messiah and wear a crown without suffering—without the cross. Jesus overcame his shadow purpose and now gives us insight and power to overcome ours.

Matthew 26:39

Jesus leads us beside still waters where he restores our soul and leads us in paths of righteousness where we find our purpose and flourish. We can trust our Shepherd to lead us.

Philippians 2:13

With Jesus and in community can we face our shadow, count the cost and embrace our true purpose.

Psalms 23