

**“Pursuing Significance”**  
**Various Passages**  
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*Pursue significance by coming to Jesus unfiltered.*

\*Significance: desire to live for a purpose greater than ourselves

## I. Significant Design

### Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

God created us to:

- Know and represent God to the rest of creation
- Explore and cultivate the created world
- Live in relationships of unity and love
- Multiply the likeness of God in the world

### Genesis 3:8-13 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Twisting of God’s Design

- Trusting God’s provision → Hoarding
- Multiplying God’s image → Idolizing
- Stewarding God’s creation → Exploiting

We long for the significance in life that we have lost: striving, pursuing, hiding, mourning, numbing; these are signs that point to what we’ve lost.

### Luke 8:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

We do not know many details about Mary Magdalene

- From Magdala, a town in Galilee
- Always mentioned first among Jesus’ female disciples
- Had money
- Afflicted by seven demons
- **Advantage: unfiltered**

## II. Significance Restored

Mary joined in and supported the ministry of Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)

- She was part of a community with purpose and belonging
- Her money, that couldn’t give her significance before, now was being used for significant purpose

Mary remained with Jesus until his last breath (John 19:25)

- She found someone to devote herself to

Mary was the first witness of the resurrection (John 20:1, 15-18)

- She was trusted by Jesus to deliver a message of eternal significance

These were the most significant moments in Mary’s life: to be part of Jesus’ ministry, to be loyal to her Savior to the end, and to witness the risen Christ.

The more unfiltered your encounter with Christ, the more your significance is restored, and you’re free to pursue what God has created you for.

God wants you to return to the significance of knowing and representing Him, exploring and cultivating the world, but that significance can only be found on the other side of the cross and the empty tomb.

### **Life Application: Remove the filter**

- Dive deep into your longing for significance
- Bring your striving, hiding, and mourning to God in prayer
- Devote yourself to God’s design and purpose