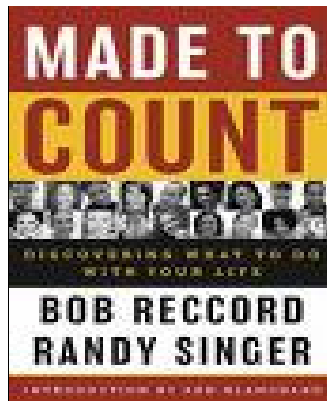


Made To Count

Discovering What to Do With Your Life



Authors: Bob Reccord and Randy Singer

Publisher: W Publishing Group, 2004

ISBN: 0 8499 1819 7

253 pages

■ The Big Idea

Meet some people who have seen the MADE TO COUNT principles work firsthand!

J.C. Watts – a United States Congressman, whom God called back from influential Washington politics to serve his own family.

Dr. Phillip Johnson – a Berkeley professor, who stood toe-to-toe with the scientific community and challenged the established worldview of evolution.

Janet Parshall – an ordinary mom, whom God called out of her home and into talk radio in Washington, D.C.

Ruth Okediji – a Nigerian whiz kid, who became a Harvard lawyer, a law professor, and eventually lived her dream as a full time missionary.

William Wilberforce – a student of John Newton and a member of Britain's Parliament, who went public with his newfound faith, enduring ridicule from his political contemporaries, then went on to abolish the blight of slave trade from the soul of the British Empire.

Peggy Wehmeyer – a Christian called by God out of the box of traditional Christian thinking into a high-profile media career as the first religion correspondent at ABC News, reporting to Peter Jennings.

"Mr. Port-A-John" – a Christian, who finds joy in his distasteful work of cleaning Port-A-Johns on construction sites, but whose happy attitude of "working for the Master" causes rough-and-tumble construction workers to see... and admire... the Christ living in him.

For what unique mission is God calling you? Apply these powerful principles to your life and find out how you are Made to Count.

Why You Need This Book

This book will challenge your thinking on the call of God and help you discover the purpose for your life.

PRINCIPLE 1: God prepared a unique plan and calling for your life even before you were born.

Key Points:

- God designed you with your destiny in mind, creating you with every gift and resource necessary to perfectly accomplish His will.
- Everyone is designed with a unique plan and calling in mind, not just those in full-time ministry.
- It's time to let God "out of the box" as you search for His unique plan and calling for your life.

Did you ever consider the fact that God has perfectly designed you for a unique mission in life? You may think you're carrying around a design defect or two, that maybe God created you on a Friday afternoon or a Monday morning, but nothing could be further from the truth. God created you with a purpose in mind.

But God does not create masterpieces just to put us on display. He creates us with all the tools and resources necessary to fulfill His calling on our lives.

PRINCIPLE 2: God calls you to a life-changing relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Key Points:

- Surrender to Christ radically changes our mission in life.
- The power to complete our mission comes not from ourselves, but from Christ at work in us.
- When we abide in Christ, even our weaknesses can be used for His glory.

The key here is to understand the huge difference between religion and relationship. God doesn't call us to more religion, He calls us to an intimate relationship.

Religion is activity; relationship is intimacy. While religion is words and works, relationship is walk. Trying to do God's will through being religious would be like Ricky Hoyt trying to finish the Ironman triathlon by training harder. The key to Ricky's inspiring feat is not activity; it was the awesome relationship and dependency he shared with his father.

We are blessed with varying degrees of talent, intellectual capacity, physical prowess, personality skills, temperaments and so much more – each individually crafted by our Creator for the unique mission He prepared for us even before we were born.

PRINCIPLE 3: God calls you to partner with Him in a mission that is bigger than you are.

Key Points:

- God's mission for our life is bigger than anything we could do on our own.
- God calls each of us to be part of an institution that will outlast us – the local church.
- God calls each of us to be part of a cause far greater than us – the Great Commission.

Be ready for God to call you to become part of something big. Really big. Far bigger than anything you can accomplish alone. And remember, that call always begins by making a difference right where you are and by honoring God at each crossroads of choice. Step by step, He will reveal your mission and provide the means for you to carry it out.

By pursuing this mission, you will be doing your part in carrying out the Great Commission, the only cause worthy of total passion and unyielding devotion.

PRINCIPLE 4: God calls you to be on mission with Him right where you are – starting now.

Key Points:

- You are called to make your family a top priority. Family responsibilities cannot be delegated to others or relegated to less than first place.
- Your home should be a nerve center for ministry as you reach out to your friends and neighbors.
- You should be “on call” at work, looking for creative opportunities to share the gospel with those around you.
- Your gospel witness at work will only be as credible as the quality of your work.

Our culture consistently tells us we deserve bigger, better, pricier, and trendier stuff. And the promise is that when we get it, we'll have fulfillment. Most often we find when we arrive there, it's not nearly what we anticipated. That's because there are only a few things that make an eternal difference --- God's Word and mission, and God's people. When you combine them, fleshing out God's Word and reaching out to impact His people for His cause, significance happens.

So step back and look at your profession. Have you come to the clear understanding that it is a vocation, a part of your calling from God?

PRINCIPLE 5: God reveals His mission through His Word, His Spirit, wise counsel, and His Work in circumstances around you.

Key Points:

- When God formed you, He hard-wired you for success in your mission. He will not work at cross-purposes with His own creative work.
- The Bible is the owner's manual for our life. God will never call us to do anything inconsistent with His will as revealed in scripture.
- God does not play guessing games with our lives. If we earnestly seek Him, He will guide us through His Spirit and His work in circumstances around us.
- We should seek the counsel of mature Christians who can help us discover God's will for our lives. But we should remember that God will ultimately reveal His plan for our life to us, not them.

- There are no shortcuts or gimmicks that reveal God's will. Fleeces, our feelings, and "open doors" can sometimes steer us wrong.

God does not work at cross-purposes with His own creation. We need to be also aware that while God created us with certain strengths and abilities necessary for our mission. He also delights in sometimes working through our weaknesses. And we need to remember that God gives us missions we could never complete alone.

Relying on His strength, not ours, is the only way to fully realize our calling.

PRINCIPLE 6: God will repeatedly bring you to crossroads of choice as He forges you for His mission.

Key points:

- God will bring us to critical junctures in our life and give us the choice of whether to follow Him.
- When we choose God at the crossroads for seemingly minor things, He will send us down a path toward greater responsibility and impact.

Crossroads choices are tough choices. The road less traveled is seldom smooth and broad, with lots of amenities and fellow-travelers. Instead, it is a rocky and foreboding road, with few companions, that we can travel only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Crossroads choices are choices made from the heart, reflecting the depth of our character.

PRINCIPLE 7: God guides you and provides for your mission one step at a time.

Key points:

- Though God reveals His mission for us in advance, He reveals His plan only one step at a time.
- Sometimes God is calling us to take a step that just doesn't make sense. Take it anyway.

- God is not just guiding the steps of your vocational mission; He is also guiding your steps as you seek to bring others into a personal relationship with Christ.

Sometimes, God directs our steps for reasons that we will never understand until we meet Him after we die. But often, god's plan unfolds in a way that seems crazy at the time but in hindsight is obvious to everyone, and we marvel.

We need to celebrate those moments, and allow them to further buttress our trust and confidence in God's amazingly intricate plan, even when He asks us to take steps we don't understand.

PRINCIPLE 8: When you answer God's call, you will experience His pleasure and change your world.

Key Points:

- When we find ourselves doing what god created us to do, we will experience His pleasure.
- God calls us to turn the world "upside down," radically changing those we come in contact with and the professions we pursue.

Where is your corner of the world? How has it changed since you've been there? What mind-numbing thing do you think God wants to do through you to turn that corner upside down? Now, multiply it by a thousand and think bigger, more radically, more creatively. Remember, His thoughts are not our thoughts. His ways are not our ways. Pray for His thoughts. Pray for His ways.

THE LIST

God wants your name on the list of faith. He loves you and calls you by name. He has constructed an unbelievable plan for your life and given you a mission that will turn your world upside down. He has created you with every tool you need to fulfill His purpose!

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By Bob Reccord and Randy Singer

He is right now whispering over your shoulder, guiding your very next step and painting a beautiful story on the canvas of your life. It's a story of a life lived large – the story of a life that counts!

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