

# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

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## DON'T MISS YOUR LIFE

Discover Fulfillment and Purpose by Pursuing Significance



Cleveland, OH: We live in a culture where our happiness and acceptance are measured by success. But many find themselves consumed with pursuing success, despite feeling tired, anxious, depressed, and unfulfilled in the process. The problem with the pursuit of success is that it's a consuming, never-ending, and often impossible task.

For those considered successful, wealthy, or famous, they often feel dissatisfied and keep pushing toward bigger successes, believing they will satisfy and bring them happiness. But what if we're all aiming at the wrong target?

**Aaron Tredway**, the lead pastor at Fellowship City Church, a former professional soccer player and coach, and the founder of Cleveland City Stars pro soccer team, reveals that we have been misled to believe that success offers satisfaction and happiness, although both are contingent on our circumstances and environment. Rather than aim for success, Tredway believes that we should adjust our target and pursue significance. Success, according to Tredway, isn't wrong, but when it becomes our focus, we will always miss the target because success can be fleeting and can create a vicious cycle or obsession that can consume our lives.

In his book *Don't Miss Your Life: The Secret to Significance* (BroadStreet® Publishing), Tredway shares that significance is a perspective, a pursuit, and a purpose. Through personal reflection, biblical guidance, and examples from the lives of influential people, Tredway guides readers on the problem, the solution, and three practical ways to pursue significance. Some examples include the following:

- **Material success should not be the goal:** Success doesn't impact our long-term happiness. Happiness fluctuates based on circumstances. God wants us to live a fulfilled, satisfied life. Jesus reframed happiness when he identified it as being "blessed" (Matt. 5:3–10).
- **Success is a never-ending pursuit:** The problem is not success or attainment of wealth, position, or honors but making success our target because it never brings the satisfaction we seek, no matter how long we pursue it. The better target is significance, which offers fulfillment but requires us to set a God-centered perspective, priority, and pursuit in our life.
- **Secret to significance:** If we want to pursue significance, then we need to pursue God (Matt. 6:33). A significant life reflects godly attributes, pursuits, and purposes. Too often, we give value to worldly possessions and values instead of our Creator. However, we can identify what or whom we follow by how we prioritize our time, talent, and treasure.
- **Give your life away:** God is a giver. He gave us Jesus so we could experience an abundant life (John 10:10). God wants us to have a rich and satisfying life and invites us to give our time and talents to him and others. God promises that a generous person will prosper with blessings (Prov. 11:24–25). Generosity is the gift that keeps giving.

"The problem with aiming your life at the target of success is there is no end to the pursuit. We measure our life by achievement, high position, prosperity, and wealth. Even when we get those, we need more," says Tredway. "The better choice is the pursuit of significance and purpose. Jesus offers a life of significance, but it's our choice to prioritize our life around God, people, and service."

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Readers of *Don't Miss Your Life* will learn to recognize the exhausting emptiness of pursuing success, discover liberation from a life without purpose, pursue God's glory instead of unrewarding self-importance, and choose significance over success one step at a time.

### About the Author:



**Aaron Tredway** is a pastor, author, speaker, athlete, and coach. He is the lead pastor of Fellowship City Church and vice president of Ambassadors Football International. He was the founder and executive director of the Cleveland City Stars, a professional soccer team, and is the author of *Don't Miss Your Life*, *To Who*, and *Outrageous*. His passions for Jesus, soccer, and people have taken him to over 150 countries, and he once lived in a yurt in Outer Mongolia. Aaron and his wife, Ginny, and their son, Noah, live in Cleveland, Ohio. His website is [www.aarontredway.com](http://www.aarontredway.com). FB: @aarontredwayauthor IG: @tredwayaaron TW: @aaron\_tredway

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### Suggested Interview Questions:

1. Aaron, what prompted you to write *Don't Miss Your Life*? What is your hope for audiences who read your book?
2. Our culture seems obsessed with success and evaluating people based on their success. Why do you believe that success, while not bad in itself, should not be the focus of our life's pursuits?
3. You write that "success may be the most coveted disappointment of all." Do you believe we should not pursue success? Should we, instead, pursue happiness as our goal in life?
4. Some people are addicted to the pursuit of success, it takes control of their life, and when they achieve success, they want more. You call this the hedonic treadmill. Explain?
5. You believe significance should be our target. How do we pursue significance?
6. You have achieved success as a professional soccer player and as a professional soccer coach. You also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. How did these accomplishments change your perspective on success and significance?
7. Jesus based happiness on being "blessed" rather than being successful. What does this reveal to us about God's will for our lives?
8. What are some symptoms of "success sickness"? What are ways for us to prevent or recover from these symptoms?
9. You write that if we pursue significance, we should pursue God. What are ways we can become rich toward God?
10. You write that God wants us to live an abundant life. How should we quantify an abundant life? Why do you believe that God will bless us abundantly if we give our life away. Explain?
11. Where can we find out more about your ministry (your social media handles and website)?

## Notable Quotes:

Psychologists say you have a personal happiness baseline. It's inherent. It's fixed. It's impenetrable. So, here's the good news and the bad news: no matter what happens in your life you will return to your personal happiness baseline. That's what psychologists say: happiness is a predetermined condition that fluctuates circumstantially, for a time.

Jesus says something different. In his most famous sermon, Jesus explicitly addresses happiness. Here's the word Jesus uses—*blessed*. It means fortunate, abundant, or blissful. *Blessed* means happy....God intends for us to enjoy life. God wants us to be fulfilled, satisfied, quenched...*happy*. Throw in whatever adjective you'd like, God's plans for us are *good*. The problem is, somewhere along the way we lost sight of the target (pp. 53–54, 56).

I'll try to be clear on this point: Wealth, position, honors, or the like—none of these things are the problem. Achievement: not a problem. Acquisition: not a problem. All the other words used to describe *success*: not a problem. It's just like having money is not a problem. The problem is when *money* has *you*. This is the problem with the pursuit of success: success can be the all-consuming, never-ending, impossible task. It's easy to think, *Just one more win. One more trophy. One more promotion. One more deal. One more sale. One more trip up the mountain.* The problem is that the end never comes; the finish line is a fable (p. 64).

Jesus' *purpose* was to offer life to all who would receive it....Jesus called himself "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Speaking to a woman about her dead brother, Jesus shortened his title. Here's what he says: I am...*life* (John 11:25). It's why Jesus came. It's why Jesus died. To offer life. But maybe we confuse happiness with life sometimes? Maybe we think happiness *is* life? Maybe we make happiness our target? I'll say it straight: happiness is good, but it's a bad target for life. Happiness is fickle. Happiness fluctuates. Happiness is found in what's *happening* around you. It's the problem of making happiness the goal: *happiness depends on happenings* (p. 99).

Have you ever noticed, Jesus doesn't say we should aspire to hear God say, "Well done, good and *successful* servant!" There's no mention of a *good and famous* servant or a *good and wealthy* servant. Jesus doesn't say we should seek to hear the words "*good and powerful* servant" either. There's something very good about being faithful....

It's what Jesus invites us to pursue. *Follow me*, Jesus says. It's an invitation to proceed after or in a like direction, to chase, and to diligently seek God...more than everything else. It's an invitation to be faithful. It might not be the most popular pursuit, but maybe you're like me, just a little. Maybe you're tired of pursuing things that don't satisfy. Maybe you're bored chasing things that can't fulfill. Maybe you don't want to miss your life (pp. 120, 122).

Does the busyness of life ever captivate your attention? Kids, chores, jobs, fixing stuff, cleaning stuff, changing stuff...there's plenty to do. And then there's God. He wants to be your priority. He wants to be your purpose. He wants to be your pursuit....Jesus wants to give us what we need. He actually wants to provide far more than we expect. The problem is that *we're distracted*. We give priority to the stuff of life instead of the one who gives it. I do it all the time....We try to squeeze God into the little holes in our life (p. 142).

I don't know about you, but I don't want to just get by or just make it through. I don't want to keep my fingers crossed and grit my teeth to hopefully someday, somehow, with some luck limp across the finish line of life. I want a life of purpose. I want a life of meaning. I want *life to the full*....Jesus offers a life of significance, but it doesn't just happen. You choose it. You make it your goal. You aim at significance, and it's really not complex. Here's the secret to significance: organize and prioritize your life around the things that matter most—God, people, and service (p. 191).