

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Seah
Title: Desire
Text: Psalm 37:4

“Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Introduction

God created man and woman with primary desires to rule and to relate (Genesis 1:26-31). These desires were interlinked with God. However, as a result of sin, these desires were marred (Gen 3:16–19) and were disconnected from the Creator.

Since then, we find ourselves either suppressing or indulging in our desires. None of these options are healthy.

Content

It is important to take a closer look at our desires because they reveal the state of our heart (Matthew 6:21).

To do this, we will glean from King David’s experiences. We will then be able to:

- i. Identify self-centered desires;
- ii. Establish & strengthen godly desires.

I. A Self-Centered Desire Is A Seed For Sin

2 Samuel 11 records the infamous story of David & Bathsheba. The source of his sin with Bathsheba was not primarily lust (1 Sam. 11:1).

Vs 1 – “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.”

It was a loss of a God-centered desire - the desire to battle as God’s chosen king.

He used to battle for the Lord:

1 Samuel 17:45-47 – David fought in the name of the Lord.

1 Samuel 30:7-8 – David inquired of the Lord before defeating the Amalekites.

1 Samuel 5:25 – David did as God commanded and struck down the Philistines.

However, his dependence on God was shifted (1 Chronicles 21:1-8).

As a result, engagement in war yields decreasing satisfaction because his focus was no longer on the Lord. David did not go to war when he was supposed to.

David now had to substitute the genuine satisfaction he once felt.

- he easily entertained the sin of murder because he had killed many before.
- he swiftly connived & orchestrated events to his favor because he was a military strategist.

When our desires are not God-centered, we become vulnerable to finding substitutes to satisfy the longings of our heart.

2 Samuel 12 – David was awakened to reality by Nathan’s rebuke.

Psalms 51:10-12 – David returned to his first love, his ultimate desire.

Vs 10 – 12 – “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

True satisfaction and contentment of the heart is found in God alone.

II. A God-Centered Desire Is A Seed For God’s Greatness

2 Samuel 7:1-16 - David had the desire to build God a temple, but that desire was not granted.

His desire was shattered only to make way for a bigger dream that God had for him. God promised that He would establish David’s throne forever. The Davidic kingdom will never end.

Ephesians 3:20 – God will do beyond what we desire.

- Do we see our desires as the chief end?
- Or do we see them as a means through which God’s power can be manifested?
- Are we flexible enough with our desires to accommodate God’s exceeding and abundant ways?

Habakkuk 3:17-18 – “...yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour!”

Conclusion

i. Psalm 37:4 – Delight in the Lord. The motivation to delight in Him is to know that we are object of God’s delight!

Deuteronomy 4:24 – “... He is a jealous God”.

Zephaniah 3:17 – “He takes great delight in you... He will rejoice over you with singing.”

God is deeply passionate about us!

ii. Jesus, the Son of David, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2).
Jesus’ profound desire for us sustained him at the moment of his deepest trial.

When we delight in the Father, through the redemption of the Son and in the renewal of the Holy Spirit, our primary desires to rule & to relate are restored. This is the abundant living Jesus promised us.

2 Samuel 23:5 records the last words of David - “Is not my house right with God? Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?”