

Introduction

1. What do you desire?

Prov. 10:24 - What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

(1) What if I could promise them?

(2) 3 types:

1. Objectively good
2. Objectively bad
3. Intrinsically neutral

A test to know yourself & your desires (Latin: *Timet Nosce*)

2. Recap: A Family that doesn't

(1) We are in the middle of a mess, w/ a very complicated family.

(2) God is seeding the gospel through the line of Abraham to his grandson Jacob.

(3) Jacob is trying to establish a family & in the process was tricked into marrying two women by his wife Laban & his own weakness, censured by his own desires.

(4) 12 sons = 12 tribes

1. Joseph has just been born

I. Do you prioritize the desires that are for your happiness or for God's purposes? (v. 30:25-34, 31:38-39)

1. God's purposes involve others (v. 27-30)

Mark 12:28-31 - And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

(1) God may benefit others as a result of your desires, more than He benefits you.

1. I thought Thomas' generosity was just about me.

(2) Prioritize the desires that involve others, even if they are not explicitly about others.

1. Coaching vs. Golf

(3) The alternative is to see your desires as a consumer

1. People are obstacle or leverage

2. What you consume doesn't satisfy (not designed)

3. Once consumed you want more

2. God's purposes involve sacrifice (v. 31:38-42)

(1) We all want the sweet life

Hebrews 13:16 - Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

(2) Prioritize the desires you have that require sacrifice

1. We are not masochists.
2. We don't take pleasure in pain. We don't take pleasure in self-denial.
3. We take pleasure in knowing our deepest desires are fulfilled through self-denial.

(3) For some of you:

1. Kids are about self-gratification. For others it will require self-sacrifice
2. Job " " "
3. Right relationship " "
4. Ministry " " "

The things that will cost you and are hard tend to be the things that we put off... Let me ask you a question... Do you regularly put off what you need to do for what you want to do.

II. Are your desires committed to your outcome or submitted to God's process? (vs 30:35 - 31:21)

1. Process orientation believes the means justify the ends (vs 31:11 - 13)

(1) God confirms, in a dream, that Jacob desires a good & just thing for his family.

1. Many have come to see me to confirm their desires are good

(2) The means = how it happens.
Confirms = the ends:

1. Confirms we heard him right

2. Confirms the timing is right

3. Confirms our heart is right

(3) Trusting God with the details means you trust God of the desires

7. Outcome orientation believes the ends justify the means (v 37-43)

(1) Jacob follows a mesopotamian superstition that believes what one sees, will manifest w/ respect to fertility.

1. He peels sticks to look like stripes.
2. Lays them in front of strongest flock

(2) Operation reveals adoration

1. The temptation, when our desires are confirmed, is to get there by any means necessary.
2. Where are you justifying the means?
3. What people do you see or treat as a means to an end?

v 43
justifies
v 37-42?

III. Have unfulfilled desires resulted in outright war or out-f-out peace? (v 31:19-55)

1. You can't have peace as long as you're a victim (v 31:19-24)

(1) In addition to the provision of the flock, God wants Jacob to go home. (v 31:3)

1. They're going to have to do it secretly w/o Laban knowing (v 31:31)

2. As they make preparations Rachel steals the household idols (gods)

3. Why? We don't know... but I think she's angry. I think she feels justified because of her father (31:15-16)

The war within you causes the war outside of you



(2) He means war (v 31:22-23)

James 4:1 - What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

(3) Laban, who has done nothing but cheated & manipulated his own family, dog the victim (v 31:25-34)

Who stole your gods?



(4) Victimhood always leads to war

1. Some of you have legitimately had your desires stolen, cheated, etc.

7. You can't have peace so long as you're entitled (v. 31:32-43)

(1) Listen to all the entitlement

1. Laban to a proper goodbye, to his family & to his idols
2. Rachel to her father's prized possessions as a substitution for her father's affection
3. Jacob to his flock & decision to leave

(2) Maybe you're not being a victim ... but you are being entitled

1. "I earned ..."
2. "I deserve ..."
3. "Do you know how much I've done around here ..."

Ecclesiastes 3:16 - Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

(3) We only believe in entitlement when it benefits our desires

Romans 1:32 - Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

1. This is what our desires entitle us to

Conclusion

Temet Nosce

1. How did the test go?

(1) Do you prioritize the desires that are more about your happiness than the one's about God's purposes?

1. God's purposes involve others
2. " " " sacrifice

(2) Are your desires committed to your outcome over & above God's process?

1. Are you process or outcome oriented?

(3) Have unfulfilled desires resulted in war or peace in your heart.

1. You can't have peace if you're a victim or entitled.
2. All you actually entitled to is death.

2. Keeping My Promise

Psalm 119:20 - My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

(1) Desires of provision (security)

(2) Desires of pleasure (comfort)

(3) Desires of praise (approval)

Psalm 42

[1] As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.

[2] My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

[3] My tears have been my food
day and night,

while they say to me all the day long,
"Where is your God?"

[4] These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:

how I would go with the throng

and lead them in procession to the house of God

with glad shouts and songs of praise,

a multitude keeping festival.

[5] Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation

[6] and my God. My soul is cast down within me;

therefore I remember you

from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,

from Mount Mizar.

[7] Deep calls to deep

at the roar of your waterfalls;

all your breakers and your waves

have gone over me.

[8] By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,

and at night his song is with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

[9] I say to God, my rock:

"Why have you forgotten me?"

Why do I go mourning

because of the oppression of the enemy?"

[10] As with a deadly wound in my bones,

my adversaries taunt me,

while they say to me all the day long,

"Where is your God?"

[11] Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,

my salvation and my God.

Acknowledge what
you really thirst
for

Acknowledge your
unfulfilled desires cause
us to blame God.

We need to
resuscitate the
object of our
desires

Remember (communion)

Deep desires
cannot be fulfilled
by shallow things

Turn your
indictments to
praise