

Chasing Carrots Part 1 FAME

- New series starting today **Chasing Carrots- The Continual Pursuit of More**

Philippians 4:11-13 (NLT)

¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

- NOTICE: Connection of contentment and empowerment. Paul calls it the “secret to living.”
- We believe the lie: “That disease” If I can just get “that” ...I’ll be happy, satisfied, fulfilled. Then when we get “that,” it’s not enough so we need even more of “that.” But “that” is never enough. “That” overpromises and underdelivers!
- Starting with a theme more relevant today than ever before. **Pursuit of Fame!** “I want to be known” “I want to be liked” “I want to be followed” “I want to be accepted” “I want to be respected” “I want to be famous.”
- DON’T check out. You might be surprised to learn that we all deal with this on some level.

Micro-Cravings for Fame (Subtle, small, seemingly insignificant, small foxes-Song of Solomon)

- o Over Commit: do more than what you want to do because you don’t want to let anyone down. Want them to like you so you say “yes” to things you want to say “no” to.
- o Get the Credit: I gave so I want them to know. I did that at work, and I want them to know. I want credit for what I did.
- o Overly Sensitive to Criticism: 100 people could say “good job” but when 1 person says it wasn’t good, you fall apart. Complaints are personal. “I’m a good person.”
- o Social Media: breeding ground for the micro-cravings. The perfect picture or comment. Take it down if it doesn’t get attention. **Living for likes and longing for love.**

If you’re NOT trying to be known, there’s a good chance your kids, grandkids, or peers are dealing with it.

- o 10–12-year-olds: #1 goal, not security, achievement, or community. FAME!
- o 22–37-year-olds: 50% believe life should be made into a movie.
 - 1 in 12 would disown their family to become a household name.
 - 1 in 9 would give up marriage.
 - 1 in 6 would give up having kids. (% goes up depending on the kids they are

around)

Nothing wrong with being famous!

- When you excel in any field, you are one of the best, or you make a difference, fame is almost inevitable.

Biblical Examples:

- o Abraham: "I will make you famous"
- o King David: Famous because he obeyed God.

1 Chronicles 14:16-17 NIV

So David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army, all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. 17 So David's fame spread throughout every land, and the Lord made all the nations fear him.

- o King Solomon: "Lord, give me wisdom" God also made him famous.
- o King Jesus: He's famous throughout history.

The Pursuit of Fame can be very dangerous to your faith.

- It moves the trajectory of your heart away from God and others and towards yourself.
- It makes it more difficult to focus on others when so many others are focused on you.
- If you look over past decades, the nature and accessibility of fame are far different today.
- Up until recent years, you had to do something significant or memorable in your field to be famous. Now through social media/YouTube
 - o Creating good content, silly content, stupid content. [Show Video if Emma and Timbo]
 - o People pay to watch people play games, unbox new stuff, even a fluke...running a register at Target. (Alex)

Ex. Alex from Target (show picture)

16-year-old Alex started day at work with 144 Twitter followers. By Sunday evening he had over 300,000. Monday on CNN then Ellen Show. He's no longer famous or even on SM.

- Counselors will tell you fame can be traumatic.
- Again, it can be leveraged for good, but it can be dangerous...even in small doses.
- Jesus warns us about chasing this carrot.

Mark 8:36 (NKJV)

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

(MESSAGE) What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?

I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer." Jim Carey

What's the answer?

- John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus, got it right.
- He was a wild man, wore animal skins for clothes, and ate locusts and honey.
- He was so strange and charismatic that he created a large following. He declared Jesus' coming and prepared the way for Him.
- He started getting micro-doses of fame, "Are you the one?"
- Today, we could easily see someone like John building a following, creating a revenue stream and platform, and still pointing people to Jesus. But he doesn't.
- When they ask him, "Are you...?" He says, "No, I'm not even worthy to untie His sandals."

John 3:30 NLT

"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."

- HEART CRY: I want you to see more and more of Him and less and less of me. It's never been about me; it's always been about Him!

How do we live this way in a culture that glorifies fame? Begins with Motive!

1. Who are you representing?

- We like to think we are always representing Jesus, but we aren't.
- When you show up, when you post, when you talk when you are squeezed?

2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

- As followers of Jesus, we are called ambassadors (highest-ranking diplomat sent from one nation to another)
- When you walk into the room, light, hope, peace, joy walks into the room.
- We represent Christ by what we say, how we act, how we respond, how we dress, and how we post, in everything we do. The list goes on and on.

2. Whose approval matters most?

- Same here, we like to think it's automatically "Jesus" but many times we are playing for the crowd.

- Living for the approval of others instead of from the approval of God will always lead to compromise.
- We will blend when we are called to stand out. Timidity and fear control us instead of the Holy Spirit.

WHY? Psychologist: Desire fame has roots in injury, and neglect. At some point, you felt insignificant.

- Controlled. Rejected. Overlooked. Abandoned. Betrayed.
- These cause micro-cravings of fame: notice me, admire me, respect me, like me, approve of me, validate me.

1 Thessalonians 2:4, 6 NLT

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ... ⁶As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

We are not called to be famous; we are called to be faithful.

- When the culture around us is “Look at me” we are called to something higher and something better.
- **“Look at me” is rooted in brokenness but “Look at Him” is rooted in wholeness.**
- Not living for the approval of people. Living from the approval of God.
- The world may not know your name or my name but there’s ONE whose name is above every name. He knows you! He calls you beloved, chosen, friend, blessed, redeemed!

Psalm 115:1 NIV

Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.