

“SOULed OUT”
Session 4: Dark and Divine Desire
Rev. Rick Dietzman
October 10, 2010

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 10:17 (NIV)

You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.

Psalm 20:4 (NIV)

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

James 1:14-15 (TNIV)

Each of you is tempted when you are dragged away by your own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Desires can take both positive and negative forms. It's important to know the difference.

Desires, longings, aspirations, delights, wishes are a part of life, and God has appropriate ways to fulfill them.

I. Envy is the desire for what another has that we don't have.

Matthew 27:18 (NIV)

For Pilate knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

James 3:14-16 (NIV)

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Envy always desires and often strives to degrade others, because it delights in obscuring those who are more deserving. It is one of the most odious and detestable of vices.

Q: What are some of the lacks people face which drive them to envy?

Psalm 73:3-5, 12-13

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills... This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

Q: Is the phrase: “Nice guys finish last” true or false when it comes to your own experience and that of those you know?

Later in this passage, the writer regains his bearings:

Psalm 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Q: What does this passage tell us about what is most important?

The essence of desire: What we seek to possess and whom we seek to serve

Earthly desire strives to possess, hoard, and defend against hunger, uncertainty, injustice, as if there were no God.

Heavenly desire strives not to possess, but to create. It seeks not to hoard but to give, not to protect personal status, but to bless others in Jesus name.

“The world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father.” 1 John 2:16

Physical Pleasure – sexual struggles, temptation

The things we see – striving to get more, excitement, adventure, violence, thrills

Pride in our possessions – financial success as a god, achievement.

What is the authentic fulfillment that God offers in these areas – if we have the patience to seek him and wait for it?

For our physical pleasure...

For a sense of adventure or excitement...

For a feeling of success and significance...

Q: How can these be turned into creativity, giving, and blessing of others?

II. Jealousy is a desire to protect what we have or which we fear someone may take away from us.

Jealousy as a human emotion can be destructive

Acts 7:9

Because Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him.

1 Samuel 18:6-9

When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

Acts 17:4-5

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women. But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.

Matthew 6:20

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Whereas fear of losing something we think is important (position, possessions, status) is one form of jealousy. There is another form which guards relationships

God is described as a jealous God

Exodus 20:2-3 (New Living Translation)

“I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me.”

Exodus 34:14

Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

2 Corinthians 11:2

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

Q: How does exclusive devotion to God and to spouse and family positively channel our desires?

III. Godly desires that the Bible describes

Isaiah 26:8

Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

Romans 10:1

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts.

Hebrews 13:18

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

Q: How have these kind of desires brought meaning and purpose to your life?

