

Wanting What To Do

March 17, 2019 ~ Marching Orders ~ Philippians 2.1-16

Sermon Series ~ “Marching Orders”

- Today’s message is the 2nd of a 5-part series
 1. “**Knowing What To Do**” / Be reasonably certain of a goal or direction
 2. “**Wanting What To Do**” / Align our hearts with chosen goal or direction
 3. “**Planning What To Do**” / Coordinate our thoughts & actions towards goal
 4. “**Choosing What To Do**” / Avoid distractions ~ Stay focused
 5. “**Do Do Do**” / Hold ourselves accountable for progress ~ No excuses
- Head / Heart / Head / Heart / Hands

Last Week - 1st of 5 ~ “**Knowing What To Do**”

- Last week’s message about making wise decisions
- We asked eight diagnostic questions to try and determine this
 1. “Is what I’m considering doing even allowed?”
 2. “Are my motives pure and my desired actions moral?”
 3. “Is it worth the risks involved?”
 4. “Am I (are we) prepared for this?”
 5. “By when must a decision be made?”
 6. “Am I thinking objectively?”
 7. “Has God led me to this?”
 8. “Is God with me in this?”
- The last two are very important

Today’s Message

- Today’s ~ 2nd “**Wanting What To Do**” (*aligning our hearts with our goal*)
 - It’s possible / likely – you want to do what you now know you’re to do
 - But this isn’t always the case / You may not want to do it at all
 - Let me share 3 examples of this situation from Scripture

#1 – Doing What You Don’t Want To Do – Abraham

- Abraham (**Gen 22.1-2**) ~ “Now it came to pass .. I shall tell you.”
 - Abraham knew what was to be done / But was his heart in it?
 - **Read Gen 22.3** ~ “So Abraham rose early .. God had told him.”
 - Abraham didn’t want to do this... / Yet he was “**Willing**” to do it...
 - “**Heart**” describes not just our desires / But our resolve
 - Runner finishing race in pain

Xition: Let’s look at an example that lacks “heart” . . .

#2 – NOT Doing What You Don't Want To Do – Jonah

- Jonah (Read Jon 1.1-2) ~ “Now the word .. has come up before Me.”
 - Jonah “**knew**” what he was to do / This was a clear command from God
 - Read Jon 1.3a ~ “But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish” / heart not in it
 - Read Jon 1.3 ~ “But Jonah arose to flee .. presence of the Lord.”
 - Jonah’s heart wasn’t in it / He planned and executed an escape
- God prevented his escape and sent him to Nineveh / But Jonah was bitter
- Let’s look at the 3rd example

#3 – Doing What You Don't Want To Do – Jesus

- Jesus (Luke 22.41-42) ~ “And He was withdrawn .. but Yours, be done.”
 - Jesus “**knew**” what he was to do / Just like Abraham and Jonah
 - He prayed for release from it, but . . .
- Read Lk 22.43-44 ~ “Then an angel .. to the ground” / Father sent angel

Aligning our Hearts with God's Desires – Submission (or not)

- Jonah didn’t “**want**” to obey / God gave him no choice / Heart not in it
- Abraham and Jesus didn’t “**want**” to obey either
 - Yet they did “**want**” to obey the Father’s will rather than their own
 - Abraham and Jesus aligned their hearts with God the Father’s
- III: Submission ~ We all must learn it (*wives can model this for husbands*)
 - A good wife is a model for everyone (*husbands, friends, unbelievers*)
 - Sometimes rebellious men have submissive wives (*Nabal and Abigail*)
- Joab’s relationship with David is filled with examples (*good and bad*)
 - Joab executed Absalom against king’s wishes – **rebellious**
 - Joab rebuked King David for openly mourning Absalom’s death – **wisdom**
 - Joab murdered Abner (*Ishbosheth’s commander*) and Amasa (*Absalom’s*)
 - Joab opposed David’s decision to take a census – **good**
- Jonah unprepared to do God’s will – heart intent upon vengeance
- Joab unprepared to do God’s will – heart filled with selfish ambition

Emptying Ourselves

- Read Phil 2.5-8 ~ “Let this mind .. death of the cross”
 - NASB uses phrase, Jesus “**emptied Himself**” in place of “**no reputation**”
- During Judah’s history temple worship was, at times, abandoned
 - Hezekiah restored Temple worship / But first rubbish had to be removed
 - III: Hoarder show – 200 tons of garbage removed from home
- Paul often counseled the steps of putting OFF and then putting ON

Xition: “Our hearts are aligned towards something – but is it God’s will?”

Aligning our Hearts to God's Will

- **Read Phil 2.12-15** ~ "Therefore, my beloved .. lights in the world"
- **v13** ~ "it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"
 - This pertains to our sermon series - "will and .. do" Points 2 and 2-5
- My Bible has the heading "**Light Bearers**" for this portion
 - "We are to be light bearers – Are we?" / "How can we do better?"

Idols in Our Hearts

- **Read Eze 14.1-5** ~ "Now some of the elders .. from Me by their idols"
 - God has tired of hypocrisy / Declared an end to it . . .
- **III: "Idols for Destruction"** ~ "they made idols for their own destruction" (**Hos 8.4**)
 - **v3** ~ "these men have set up idols in their hearts"
- If we have trouble aligning our hearts to God's will – perhaps it's already filled
- 6 topics: history, humanity, money, nature, power, religion
 1. History ~ "dividing line between BC and AD is not just a convention"
 2. Humanity ~ "Eve was the first humanist.. She could be wise apart from God"
 3. Money ~ "elevation of money and material possessions as the goal of life"
 4. Nature ~ "biological evolution enabled science to explain change"
 5. Power ~ "the only branch of human endeavor that can save us is politics"
 6. Religion ~ "the church has chosen to befriend the powers that dominate the world instead of judging them"
- Much of our own idolatry is rooted in these 6 topics
 - "Our capacity for self-deception and self-justification is almost infinite"
 - We forget / ignore that God directs all of history (purpose)
 - We forget God and elevate service towards mankind as highest virtue
 - We participate in "rat race" and "keeping up with the Jones"
 - We accept belief in an elite that know better than us / better than God
 - We adopt victim attitude and look to government for salvation or relief
 - We want our church to fit in – to not stick out quite as much as we do

"Foodies"

- **John 4** – Jesus and disciples pass through Samaria en route to Galilee
 - **v8** ~ "His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food"
 - Jesus has a conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well
 - He had just declared Himself to be the Messiah who was to come
- **III: Sachin** – "foodie" / 1st time I'd heard this word
- **Read John 4.27-34** ~ "And at this point .. to finish His work."
 - Jesus was a "foodie" / He had a refined interest

Xition: "Jesus was a foodie... Now try to identify another modern cultural term..."

“Bucket List”

- **Read Luke 22.36-38** ~ “Then He said .. It is enough.”
 - v37 ~ “this which is written must still be accomplished”
 - v37 ~ “the things concerning Me have an end”
- **Read John 19.28-30** ~ “After this .. gave up His spirit.”
 - v28 ~ “all things were now accomplished”
- These (and 300+ others) were fulfillments of prophesy c/Jesus
- **Def: Bucket List** ~ A list of things to accomplish before you “kick the bucket”
- **“Do you have a bucket list?” / Jesus did**
 - Let’s look at some items on Jesus’ bucket list
 1. “Overturn money-changer’s tables” – CHECK
 2. “Heal the sick and raise the dead” – CHECK
 3. “Be betrayed by a close friend for 30 silver pieces” – CHECK
 4. “Remain silent before accusers” – CHECK
 5. “Be mocked and taunted” – CHECK
 6. “Be executed as a sinner among sinners” – CHECK
 7. “Bear the guilt and sins of man” - CHECK

Aligning our Heart With God’s Will

- Aligning our heart with God’s will is all uphill in this world
- **Read Phil 2.12b** ~ “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”
- From heaven, Jesus told Paul, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”
 - Jesus used goads with Paul up to this point
 - Goads are the pointy sticks used to make animals move
 - Yet Paul’s next words were “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

God promises to grant us the desires of our heart

But are the desires of our heart aligned with God’s heart?

If you have a “bucket list” I ask you to review it

Does your bucket list align with the heart of God?

Align your will with God’s desires for you

Don’t be like Jonah – instead be like Abraham and Jesus

Jude 24-25 ~ "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy; To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

Wanting What To Do - Handout

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1. Today's sermon title is "Wanting What To Do". What is another possible title that better captures the intention? "_____ What To Do."
2. What 3 people from Scripture were given as examples of those not wanting to do what they needed to do? _____, _____, and _____
3. Which of them never showed a willing heart of obedience? _____
4. Which king and commander were used as examples of failures of submission? _____ and _____. Can you offer an explanation as to why the king tolerated this? _____
5. What six idolatries must we empty our hearts of to make room for obedience to God (*try and think of examples from our society*)?
 - a. _____ / _____
 - b. _____ / _____
 - c. _____ / _____
 - d. _____ / _____
 - e. _____ / _____
 - f. _____ / _____
6. Jesus was an example of a modern _____. Explain how _____

7. Jesus fulfilled a rather lengthy _____. If you create one of these what two or three things might you put on it? _____
_____, and _____