



GOING DEEPER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

APRIL 8, 2018

Discussion Guide

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

CONNECTING:

45 MINUTES

(THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOUR GROUP WITH A WAY OF CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER SO THAT YOU MIGHT PARTNER IN THE WORK GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIVES.)

- IN WHAT WAYS DID GOD MOVE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK? IN WHAT WAYS DID YOU RESPOND TO HIM?
- WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE THIS WEEK? IN WHAT WAYS, IF ANY, DID YOU INVITE GOD INTO THIS CHALLENGE?
- HOW HONEST HAVE YOU BEEN WITH US? (GRACIOUSLY THANK GROUP MEMBERS FOR THEIR HONESTY IF THEY STATE THEY HAVE HELD BACK.)

GETTING STARTED:

10 MINUTES

- DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO BECOME LIKE JESUS? COULD YOU ELABORATE?

DIVING INTO THE TEXT:

60 MINUTES

(THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOUR GROUP WITH A SIMPLE ROAD MAP THROUGH THE TEXT. FEEL FREE TO USE THESE QUESTIONS IN WAYS THAT BEST FIT YOUR GROUP AND THE DYNAMICS OF YOUR OWN MEETING.)

- USING THE NOTES, DISCUSS THE IDEA OF DESIRE AS PRESENTED IN SCRIPTURE. YOU MIGHT DISCUSS WHAT PEOPLE HAVE THOUGHT OR WERE TAUGHT ABOUT DESIRE AND HOW THIS IS SIMILAR OR DISSIMILAR TO THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE.
- IN JOHN 1.35-38, THE FIRST QUESTION JESUS ASKS

HIS FIRST POTENTIAL DISCIPLES IS ONE OF DESIRE. IN HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT, JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE POWER OF DESIRE FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH. READ MATTHEW 6.19-24 ALOUD. PAUSE AND READ THESE VERSES ONCE MORE.

- ACCORDING TO JESUS, WHAT ROLE DOES DESIRE PLAY ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH?
- CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXAMPLE WHERE YOU HAVE SEEN JESUS' POINT ABOUT DESIRE WORKING IN SOMEONE'S LIFE? WOULD YOU SHARE THIS EXAMPLE, PULLING OUT THE ROLE DESIRE PLAYED?
- DO YOU THINK MOST PEOPLE TODAY BELIEVE DESIRE IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE FAITH JOURNEY? WHAT DO YOU THINK MOST PEOPLE WOULD SAY ARE THE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS ONE NEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAITH JOURNEY?
- WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, DOES DESIRE PLAY IN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT DESIRE HAS PLAYED A BIGGER ROLE THAN YOU HAVE FORMERLY REALIZED? COULD YOU ELABORATE?
- WHEN JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES WERE ASKED WHAT THEY WANTED, THEY REPLIED THAT THEY WANTED JESUS, TO BE WHERE HE WAS (JOHN 1.38). IF JESUS WERE TO ASK YOU THIS SAME QUESTION, HOW MIGHT YOU ANSWER? WHY MIGHT THIS BE THE CASE?
- CONSIDER CLOSING BY DISCUSSING WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE TO DESIRE JESUS FIRST. YOU MIGHT PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP FOR THE GRACE TO DESIRE JESUS MORE.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

DESIRE

DESIRE IS THE PRESENCE OF A LONGING TO POSSESS OR ENJOY SOMETHING SUCH AS A NEED, GOAL, OR OBJECT. IN MANY CHRISTIAN CIRCLES, DESIRE IS VIEWED NEGATIVELY, AS SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD BE REJECTED AS NON-RATIONAL AND EVIL. HOWEVER, SUCH A VIEW COMES FROM AUGUSTINE WHO, OUT OF HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, VIEWED DESIRES AS ALWAYS PLEASURE ORIENTED, USUALLY IN AN ILLICIT MANNER. HIS VIEW HAS BEEN REPRODUCED AND ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES, BUT SUCH A VIEW OF DESIRE IS NOT FOUND IN SCRIPTURE OR IN THE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S INTENTION FOR LIFE AS SEEN THROUGH OUR PHYSICAL BODIES.

GOD DESIGNED THE HUMAN BODY WITH NEURAL CENTERS AND SYSTEMS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO MEASURE AND PURSUE PLEASURE AND AVOID PAIN. THIS HARD-WIRING OF OUR BODIES STRONGLY INFLUENCES THE PRESENCE OF THE DESIRES OF HUNGER, THIRST, REST, SEX, LOVE, AND MORE IN OUR EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE. IN FACT, DESIRE IS SUCH A CENTRAL PART OF THE WAY OUR BODY FUNCTIONS THAT SOME SCIENTISTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE AS AN AGGREGATE OF DESIRES. MANY PSYCHOLOGISTS NOTE THAT THE LACK OF DESIRE IS OFTEN A SYMPTOM OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND IS RUINOUS TO THE PERSON.

DESIRE IS A REGULAR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, APPEARING FIRST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS A CENTRAL PART OF THE SELF. THESE DESIRES CENTRAL TO THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE ARE REFERRED TO AS DESIRES OF THE HEART (ISAIAH 26.8-9) INDICATING THEY LIE AT THE CORE OF WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN AND NAVIGATE THE WORLD. FURTHER, THESE DESIRES ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE GOOD WHEN THEY COME FROM THE HEART OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON (PROVERBS 10.24; 11.23). ULTIMATELY, A PERSON IS TO DESIRE GOD AND IN THE PURSUIT OF THIS DESIRE, GOD FULFILLS ALL OTHER HUMAN DESIRES (PSALM 21.2; 37.4; ISAIAH 58.11).

JESUS SPOKE FAVORABLY OF DESIRE AND EXPERIENCED DESIRE HIMSELF (LUKE 22.15). IN FACT, GOD HIMSELF EXPERIENCES DESIRE AND SEEKS TO IMPART HIS DESIRES TO HIS PEOPLE (GALATIANS 5.16-25). HOWEVER, DESIRE CAN BE EXPERIENCED IN A NEGATIVE MANNER. THIS OCCURS WHEN ONE'S DESIRES ARE MISDIRECTED AND FOCUSED UPON ONE'S SELF (ROMANS 1.24-32; EPHESIANS 2.2-3; 1 THESSALONIANS 4.4-6). WHEN DESIRE IS FOCUSED UPON SELF RATHER THAN GOD, DESIRE BECOMES A TOOL UTILIZED BY SIN. HOWEVER, IN THESE CASES, IT IS NOT THE DESIRE ITSELF WHICH IS EVIL BUT THE USE OF THE DESIRE. RATHER,

DESIRE AND ITS PROPER USE FORM AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH (JOHN 1.35-38), BECAUSE IT IS THE PURSUIT OF ONE'S DESIRES WHICH FORMATIVELY SHAPES A PERSON IN THEIR DEEPEST PARTS (MATTHEW 6.19-21). IN MORE RECENT DAYS, STRONG ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO RESCUE DESIRE FROM THE LEGACY OF AUGUSTINE SO THAT BELIEVERS MIGHT EXPERIENCE THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF DESIRE RIGHTLY DIRECTED. ONE SUCH EXAMPLE IS THAT OF JOHN PIPER IN HIS BOOK *DESIRING GOD*. IN THIS BOOK, PIPER RIGHTLY NOTES THAT SCRIPTURE CONSISTENTLY POINTS TO THE BENEFIT FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH OF DESIRING AND DELIGHTING IN GOD, SOMETHING HE CALLS "CHRISTIAN HEDONISM."

THE TEXT

MATTHEW 6.19-24: *WE BECOME WHAT WE DESIRE*

JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT, IS HIS MANIFESTO OF WHAT LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TO BE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS. IN THIS VEIN, SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO DESCRIBE THIS SERMON AS THE NEW TORAH AND JESUS AS A NEW MOSES. IN HIS OUTLINING OF KINGDOM LIFE, JESUS TOUCHES UPON THE IMPORTANCE OF DESIRE. THIS SHOULD NOT PROVE TO BE SURPRISING AS JESUS HIMSELF HAS NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF WHAT ONE DESIRES IS FOUNDATIONAL TO ONE'S FAITH JOURNEY (JOHN 1.35-38). ENTERING AND LIVING WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF GOD HINGES IN LARGE PART UPON WHAT ONE WANTS/DESIRES. THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE WHAT ONE DESIRES PROVES TO HAVE A SHAPING INFLUENCE UPON THEM.

JESUS TOUCHES UPON THE SHAPING POWER OF DESIRE IN HIS DISCUSSION OF TREASURE AND ITS PURSUIT. IN THIS DISCUSSION, JESUS ENCOURAGES HIS FOLLOWERS TO PURSUE HEAVENLY TREASURE RATHER THAN EARTHLY TREASURE AS THE FORMER IS OF LASTING NATURE. MANY PEOPLE HEAR JESUS AND IMMEDIATELY SEEK TO UNDERSTAND JESUS' WORDS IN TERMS OF THE RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS OF POSSESSION. HOWEVER, THIS IS FAR FROM JESUS' POINT. JESUS IS ACTUALLY SPEAKING TO THE POWER OF DESIRE.

THE VERB JESUS USES FOR THE PURSUIT OF TREASURE IMPLIES A CONSTANT PURSUIT OR ACTIVITY WHICH DOMINATES ONE'S LIFE. TO ACTIVELY PURSUE SOMETHING IN THIS MANNER REQUIRES AN UNDERLYING MOTIVATING FACTOR, DESIRE. DESIRE (WHAT A PERSON REALLY WANTS) DRIVES THE STORING UP OF TREASURE. JESUS DOES NOT DENY THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A DESIRE AND ITS AFFECTS BUT RATHER ACKNOWLEDGES IT IS A PART OF ONE'S LIFE. WHAT MATTERS IS NOT THE PRESENCE OF DESIRE BUT ITS FOCUS. DESIRE CAN BE HEAVENLY FOCUSED OR EARTHLY FOCUSED. AN EARTHLY FOCUSED DESIRE CAN TAKE THE SHAPE OF THE PURSUIT

OF VARIOUS FORMS OF WEALTH WHICH JESUS NOTES ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL THE WEALTH OF HEAVEN. HOWEVER, JESUS' POINT IS NOT REALLY TO ARGUE THAT HEAVENLY WEALTH IS OF FAR GREATER WORTH. HIS POINT IS THAT WHAT ONE'S DESIRE PUSHES ONE TO PURSUE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT SHAPES ONE'S HEART. THE PURSUIT OF HEAVENLY TREASURE SHAPES ONE'S HEART IN A HEAVENLY WAY WHILE THE PURSUIT OF EARTHLY TREASURE SHAPES ONE IN AN EARTHLY WAY. AS THE HEART IS THE VERY CENTER OF A PERSON, DETERMINING WHAT THEY THINK AND DO, JESUS' POINT SEEMS TO BE THAT THE FOCUS OF ONE'S DESIRE SHAPES A PERSON AT THE CORE OF THEIR BEING.

JESUS CHANGES METAPHORS BUT MAKES THE SAME POINT IN THE FOLLOWING VERSES. JESUS MOVES TO THE METAPHOR OF THE EYE. HE NOTES THAT THE EYE IS THE LAMP OF THE BODY. IN THIS METAPHOR, JESUS PLACES THE EYE IN THE ROLE OF A WINDOW TO THE SOUL. THE EYE IS THAT PART OF THE BODY MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DESIRE. JESUS HIMSELF HAS ALREADY USED EYESIGHT IN THIS MANNER IN THIS SAME SERMON IN HIS DISCUSSION OF LUST (MATTHEW 5.27-30). THUS, JESUS APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING HIS DISCUSSION OF DESIRE. IN THIS EXAMPLE, JESUS NOTES THAT IF ONE'S EYE (DESIRE) IS HEALTHY OR GOOD THEN THE BODY IS FILLED WITH LIGHT, A METAPHOR OF THE THINGS OF GOD. IN THE SAME MANNER, IF ONE'S EYE (DESIRE) IS UNHEALTHY OR BAD THEN THE BODY IS FILLED WITH DARKNESS, A METAPHOR FOR EVIL. IN THIS EXAMPLE, JESUS SIMPLY REITERATES THE POINT HE MADE IN THE PREVIOUS EXAMPLE. DESIRE HAS A POWERFUL SHAPING INFLUENCE ON THE INNER PERSON.

JESUS ROUNDS OUT HIS DISCUSSION OF DESIRE BY NOTING DESIRE IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH CAN BE BIFURCATED. HE USES THE EXAMPLE OF SEEKING TO SERVE TWO MASTERS. THIS KIND OF SCENARIO LEADS TO A TERRIBLE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WHICH CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BY SIDING WITH ONE MASTER OVER THE OTHER. HE THEN NOTES THAT SUCH IS THE CASE WITH GOD AND MONEY. ONE CANNOT SEEK TO SERVE BOTH. HOWEVER, THE CONTEXT PROVIDES A KEY INSIGHT INTO UNDERSTANDING JESUS' INTENT. WHILE IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE GOD AND MONEY FORM COMPETING INTERESTS IN A PERSON'S LIFE, THE USE OF GOD AND MONEY AS EXAMPLES IS SIMPLY A RETURN TO THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY TREASURES. JESUS IS STILL DISCUSSING DESIRE. THEREFORE, HIS POINT SEEMS TO BE THAT DESIRE ITSELF CANNOT BE DIVIDED IN A PERSON'S LIFE. THIS LEADS TO A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS LIKE THAT BETWEEN MASTERS BECAUSE DESIRE ITSELF IS SOMETHING OF A MASTER, DIRECTING A PERSON'S CHOICES AND

ACTIONS. DIVIDED DESIRES WILL LEAD TO CONFLICTS IN THINKING AND ACTING WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED, AND WILL BE IMPLICITLY OR EXPLICITLY IN A PERSON'S LIFE. THUS, JESUS IS ISSUING A CALL TO HIS LISTENERS TO PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY DESIRE AND TO ENSURE THEIR DESIRES ARE RIGHTLY FOCUSED.

THAT DESIRE IS THE FOCUS OF THESE VERSES IS UNDERScoreD IN THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION ABOUT WORRY/ANXIETY. IN THIS DISCUSSION JESUS USES EXAMPLES WHICH ALL ARISE FROM PHYSICAL DESIRES. FURTHER, THIS CONVERSATION CONTINUES JESUS' EMPHASIS ON RIGHTLY FOCUSING ONE'S DESIRE BECAUSE HE URGES THE PURSUIT OF THE KINGDOM RATHER THAN EARTHLY DESIRES ARGUING THAT ALL ELSE WILL BE GIVEN. THIS IS IN FACT A REPHRASING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT CONCEPT OF THE FOCUSED PURSUIT OF GOD LEADING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF ONE'S EARTHLY DESIRES (PSALM 37.4).

REAL LIFE WITH BLAKE:

WHAT DO I BELIEVE? I WAS TAUGHT THIS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION A PERSON COULD ANSWER ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH. RIGHT BELIEF RESULTED IN SALVATION. WRONG BELIEF. . . WELL, DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE WITH THE WALLPAPER YOU WANT IN YOUR MANSION IN HEAVEN. RIGHT BELIEF WAS NECESSARY NOT JUST FOR SALVATION BUT FOR TRANSFORMATION. IF I WANTED TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS I NEEDED TO BELIEVE THE RIGHT THINGS. THE MORE RIGHT THINGS I KNEW, THE MORE RIGHT THINGS I WOULD DO. WE USED TO CALL THIS APPROACH "THE MORE YOU KNOW THE MORE YOU GROW."

THIS KIND OF THINKING LED TO AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BIBLICAL TRUTH WAS FED TO ME (AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THAT CONTEXT) AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE. WE HAD THREE HIGHLY EXEGEDED SERMONS EVERY WEEK. WE HAD SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE MORNING AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING AT NIGHT. FOR THE UNINITIATED THAT JUST MEANS SUNDAY SCHOOL AT NIGHT. DURING THE REST OF THE WEEK, WE WERE EXPECTED TO BE WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH OUR BIBLES, LISTENING TO OTHER SERMONS, AND ATTENDING OTHER BIBLE STUDIES. IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT WE WERE HEARING FIVE OR MORE BIBLICAL TOPICS A WEEK. WHAT MATTERED IS WE WERE LEARNING WHAT WAS TRUE AND THE MORE OF IT WE GOT, THE BETTER. ONLY THINGS DIDN'T GET BETTER. THINGS PRETTY MUCH STAYED THE SAME.

I WILL NEVER FORGET A CONVERSATION I HAD IN SEMINARY WITH ONE OF MY PROFESSORS. I WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY TROUBLED BY THE REALITY THAT I WAS CRAMMING INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH IN MY NOODLE BUT WAS SEEING VERY LITTLE LIFE-CHANGE. SIMPLY PUT, THE MORE-I-KNOW

APPROACH WASN'T WORKING FOR ME. I TRIED TO EXPRESS TO MY PROFESSOR THAT SOMETHING SEEMED WRONG, OFF, OUT OF SORTS. HE PAUSED, LOOKED AT ME SORT OF FUNNY AND SIMPLY SAID, "YOU JUST NEED TO PRAY MORE." I COULD TELL THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE AN ANSWER AND WAS JUST GIVING ME SOMETHING WHICH SOUNDED "RIGHT." I RESOLVED IN THAT MOMENT TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS MISSING. IF THE MORE YOU KNOW DIDN'T MAKE YOU GROW, WHAT DID? WHAT COULD HELP A PERSON BECOME LIKE JESUS?

I HAVE SPENT THE PAST COUPLE OF DECADES PURSUING THIS QUESTION. I HAVE TRIED SMALL GROUPS, SCRIPTURE MEMORY, DIFFERENT DISCIPLESHIP METHODS, EVEN PRAYING MORE AND DIFFERENTLY. I HAVE HAD SMALL SUCCESSES HERE AND THERE BUT NOTHING YOU WOULD WANT TO TRUMPET FROM THE ROOFTOPS. MORE RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY SOMETHING WHICH I HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED, MOSTLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS AN OPTION: DESIRE. I FIRST CAME ACROSS THE IDEA OF DESIRE WHEN I READ JOHN PIPER'S DESIRING GOD OVER TEN YEARS AGO. MORE RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN PONDERING DESIRE AS I AM WADING THROUGH JONATHAN EDWARD'S RELIGIOUS AFFECTIONS. BOTH MEN POINT TO THE SAME THING, THE IMPORTANCE OF DESIRE, SHOULD WE SAY PASSIONATE LONGING/ LOVE FOR GOD, AS THE GASOLINE FOR THE ENGINE OF GROWTH ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH. I HAVE LONG REJECTED THE IDEA OF DESIRE BECAUSE DESIRE WAS "BAD" AND EMOTIONAL. WELL, AT LEAST THAT WAS WHAT I WAS TAUGHT. A LITTLE READING OF CHURCH HISTORY AND SCRIPTURE HAS MADE ME REALIZE I WAS TAUGHT THE WORDS OF AUGUSTINE NOT JESUS.

THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, DESIRE IS CENTRAL TO WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN BECAUSE DESIRE IS CENTRAL TO WHAT IT IS TO BE GOD. PASSIONATE LONGING LIES AT THE HEART OF THE TRINUNE DANCE OF LOVE. IT IS DESIRE OR PASSIONATE LONGING WHICH LIES AT THE HEART OF FAITH. JESUS HIMSELF POINTS THIS OUT WHEN HIS FIRST TWO DISCIPLES BEGIN TO FOLLOW HIM, INDICATING THEY WANT TO BE HIS DISCIPLES. JESUS TURNS TO THEM, INDICATING HE RECOGNIZES THEIR DESIRE. THE FIRST QUESTION HE ASKS THEM, THE ENTRY-LEVEL QUESTION OF DISCIPLESHIP HE LEVELS IS NOT "WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?" BUT "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" (JOHN 1.35-38) HE ASKS THE QUESTION OF DESIRE. IN HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT, JESUS NOTES THAT DESIRE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HAS A POWERFUL SHAPING INFLUENCE ON MY HEART. DESIRE THE RIGHT THING AND I AM SHAPED FOR THE BETTER. DESIRE THE WRONG THING. . . YOU GET THE POINT.

SO, I AM LEARNING TO ASK A NEW QUESTION OF MYSELF ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH, A QUESTION OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. I AM ASKING THIS QUESTION MORE AND MORE BECAUSE I WANT TO

BE LIKE JESUS. I AM ASKING, "WHAT DO I WANT?"

REAL LIFE WITH YOU:

WHAT DO I WANT? THIS IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WE CAN ASK OURSELVES ON THE JOURNEY OF FAITH IF WE WANT TO BECOME LIKE JESUS. THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE BECAUSE WE ARE USED TO ASKING A VERY DIFFERENT QUESTION. WE ARE USED TO ASKING ABOUT WHAT WE BELIEVE. WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BELIEVING THING RIGHT THINGS NOT WANTING THE RIGHT THINGS IS WHAT BENEFITS US ON THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP. IN FACT, SOME OF US HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE MORE RIGHT THINGS WE KNOW THE MORE WE WILL GROW TO LOOK LIKE JESUS. THEREFORE, WE HAVE SPENT YEARS OF OUR LIVES CRAMMING INCREDIBLE AMOUNTS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH INTO OUR HEADS, BUT WE ARE BEFUDDLED BECAUSE OUR HEARTS AND LIVES DO NOT RESEMBLE THAT OF CHRIST. THE ANSWER ISN'T GOING TO BE FOUND IN ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY OR LISTENING TO ANOTHER PODCAST. THE ANSWER OF HOW TO BECOME LIKE JESUS IS FOUND IN ASKING A DIFFERENT QUESTION: WHAT DO I WANT?

WHAT WE WANT (DESIRE), WHAT WE PASSIONATELY LONG FOR IS WHAT MATTERS MOST BECAUSE WE PURSUE WHAT WE DESIRE. ACCORDING TO JESUS, WE BECOME WHAT WE LOVE (MATTHEW 6.19-21). SO, IF WE WANT TO BECOME LIKE JESUS, WE MUST ASK IF WE REALLY WANT JESUS. THIS WEEK, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BEGIN ASKING THIS QUESTION OF YOURSELF. THE ASKING OF THIS QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN A SIMPLE WAY, BUT IN A METHODOICAL AND REFLECTIVE MANNER. WE MUST ASK NOT JUST WHAT WE SHOULD WANT BUT WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO WANT, WHAT OUR ACTIONS, WORDS, AND AGENDAS REVEAL WHAT WE WANT. THESE REVEAL OUR UNDERLYING DESIRES. WHEN OUR TRUE DESIRES ARE CLEAR TO US, WE MUST THEN ASK IF WE WISH TO CHANGE OUR DESIRE AND WHAT THIS REQUIRES, A TOPIC TO WHICH WE WILL TURN IN THE COMING WEEKS.



SENIOR
PASTOR
BLAKE
SHIPP

 twitter.com/blake_shipp

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