

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Different Desires

Bill Brinkworth

“In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. ... 10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? 11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: 12 Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.” II Chronicles 1:7-12

Solomon, one of King David’s sons, was given the throne of the kingdom from which God allowed David to rule. God’s appointed, new leader was asked a question by God. The Creator of the universe asked the new leader what he would like Him to give the leader. What an opportunity the ruler had.

Instead of greedy and self-desires that most would ask for, Israel's new leader asked for wisdom to lead the people God had given him to rule. Solomon may have gotten the idea that he needed this ability earlier from his father.

“Now, my son [King David was speaking], the LORD be with thee; ... 12 Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.” I Chron. 22:11-12

Because of Solomon's desire to do his best with his new responsibility, he desired wisdom to be a good leader. Pleased with the young ruler's self-less wish for discernment to govern his people properly, God granted Solomon's wish and gave him much he did not ask for (vs. 12).

Although a natural man's desires are usually selfish, one wonders what a Christian would achieve and gain if he had an “others” mentality, as did Solomon. Yes, Solomon was a chosen king, and he was not a commoner as most of us are, but it is the heart that God hears and sees. God was pleased with what He heard and saw in Solomon.

The Bible talks more about meeting the needs of others, than it does about are getting for ourselves. God has no real need of us or what we can do with what He has created for us, but he loves us because we are created in His Image. Jesus could have escaped the cruel cross, but He gave His life so that we could live eternally. Moses could have gone his own direction, but He obeyed God and

continued to lead the Hebrews despite their complaining, lack of faith, disobedience, and other sins.

Most of the biblical leaders that God picked and used had the similar “others first” attitudes. Most of those selfless, godly people were used greatly by their Creator and are still remembered today. However, those that seek to meet their own desires and needs are little remembered and often not in a positive way.

Christian, do you want to have a life used and blessed by God? Be a servant to the King of the Universe rather than a slave to your lusts. You may not be a king as was Solomon, have his wealth, or his opportunities, but you will have the same God lead and use your life. That blessing is longer lasting than any treasures that are found on this Earth.

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” James 4:3

“Let your motto be, ‘Others, others, others’.”

Do What You Can

Author Unknown

*We cannot all be heroes,
And thrill a hemisphere
With some great daring venture,
Some deed that mocks at fear;
But we can fill a lifetime
With kindly acts and being true;*

*There's always noble service
For noble hearts to do.*

*We cannot all be preachers,
And sway with voice and pen,
As strong winds sway the forest,
The mind and hearts of men;
But we can be evangelists
To souls within our reach;
There's always Love's own gospel
For loving hearts to preach.*

*We cannot all be martyrs,
And win a deathless name
By some Divine baptism,
Some ministry of flame;
But we can live for truth's sake,
Can do for Christ and dare;
There's always faithful witness
For faithful hearts to bear.*

"If we don't tell them, who will?" — B. B.

God Can Use Our Efforts

Author Unknown

Our daily duties and trials, someone says, are "the veils under which God hides Himself," as He draws near to us. The secret of satisfaction, then, as well as the pledge of success, is doing whatever we do to the honor of God.

In every humble or distasteful employment see Him. In every burden borne for another's good, remember His word, "... Ye have done it unto Me. (Matthew 25:40)" "This," says another, "is the elixir of life, that turns baser metal into gold, its mean activities into holy offerings unto God."

"The more we serve Christ, the less we will serve self." — *Unknown*

Matthew 25:34-40

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:34-40

The Faithful Woman

D. L. Moody

A woman who was seventy-five years old had a Sunday school two miles away in the mountains. One Sunday there was a terrible rain storm, and she thought she would not go that day. Then she thought, "What if someone should go and not find me there?"

She then put on her waterproof, took her umbrella and overshoes, and away she went through the storm. When she got there, she found one solitary young man and taught him the best she knew all the afternoon.

She never saw him again. Most likely the woman thought her Sunday school had been a failure because of low attendance.

That week the young man enlisted in the army, and in a year or two the woman got a letter from the soldier thanking her for going through the storm that Sunday. This young man thought that stormy day he would go and see if the woman was in earnest, and if she cared enough about souls to go through the rain. He found she came and taught him as carefully as if she was teaching the whole school. God used that occasion to win the young man to Christ.

When he lay dying in a hospital, he sent the message to the woman that he would meet her in Heaven. Was it not a glorious thing that she did not get discouraged because

she had but one Sunday school scholar? Be willing to work with one.