

Giving Your Life Away

(because Jesus Gave His for You)

Sermon Study Guide for 9/13/09

Motivation: Where it all Begins

Philippians 2:3-11

This message is all about motivation. Why do we do what we do? Ultimately, if you don't know what motivates you, it can all crash. Check out my (Terry) blog at www.durhame.org each week to read the opening comments on the coming week's message, and to give some response.



Time for a little study of the Word: Read Philippians 2:3-11

1. Verses 3-4 chart out a pretty tough path in life. First off, what exactly does the apostle tell us to do? How does this command relate to the whole issue of motivation?
2. Do you think it is possible to live an “other person” centered life, but still do it out of wrong motive? What would those motives be? Do you know any Bible characters that did the right things but their motives were all messed up?
3. What would a person's life look like if they actually did “consider others as more important than yourself”?
4. Just about the time the reader says “yeah right, like you could really do that”, here comes verses 5-11. Connect the dots—what does “have this attitude in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus” have to do with the previous 2 verses?
5. List the number of ways in which Jesus exemplifies a person who “considered others better than Himself”. What all did He do to fulfill verses 3-4?
6. Out of that list, which thing do you think was the hardest and why?

Time for a Little “Learn from the Saints”

Check out these passages where different folks in the Bible stepped out in faith with God, and give us a real look at what was going on inside of them (their “motivation”).

- **Luke 1:46-55:** Mary, the mother of Jesus, responds to her calling to be the mother of the Christ child.

- **Isaiah 6:1-8:** the great prophet describes the day that he said to God, “send me!”. Look what happened to get him to that place.

- **Galatians 1:11-24:** the apostle Paul reveals what brought him to the place of being one of the greatest preachers in the history of the Gospel.

Let's Think about This:

Get introspective. Are there times you do things with less than good motives? Like what?

If there is one thing that seems to get in your way of “considering others better than yourself”, what is it? How can let the example of Jesus and the example of the saints above, help you overcome your own natural self centeredness?