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What's Your Motivation?

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“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” Psalm 16:11

What’s Your Motivation?

The Bible begins with a record of man and woman, made in the image of God, experiencing the good life. A life of perfection. God walked with them, and they experienced intimate communion and relationship with him. They experienced joy and peace because they were with God Himself.

How did this go wrong? God had invited Adam and Eve to live and to rule with him. Eating from the tree symbolized that they no longer sought to live with God. They wanted life apart from God. They wanted to be gods.

You might wonder: how did they get there? However, as I reflect on my own propensity to want to be the ruler of my life, I see how its reflective of that same desire. Religion is often experienced as a means to appease God in order to experience the good life. Your fear and desire for control over your day today stems from the same place. Even a desire to live for God through our vocational choices or our participation in ministry or service, typically stems from a desire to have significance and to control the outcomes of our life by achieving great things for God’s kingdom.

If you really explore what you believe and how you behave in your day-to-day life, what would you learn about: 1) How do you relate to God and, 2) What motivates your relationship with God? Do you see God as a vending machine? An angry dictator? A law enforcement officer? A priest? If you investigate further, are you really living with God? Do you have a real, authentic, honest relationship with God.

His desire is clear. All throughout scripture God tells us in a variety of ways, “I would love to do life with you.” In fact, Jesus even says in John 15:5, “Apart from me you can do nothing.”

This week, as you make Jesus the main thing in your life, may you experience a life of peace, freedom, and joy as you journey with God!

Reflection

Read John 15:4, Psalm 16:11, and Isaiah 26:3 and ask:

1. How do these passages relate to my life?
2. What do these passages teach me about God?
3. What is the invitation God is extending to me?

News and Resources

- Join us this week for Vespers at 7:30pm in the University Church with the Office of Ministry and Missions.
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.