

You Ain't Right...What do you want?

Matthew 6:19-24

May 13, 2018

What do you want?

I want us to take a few minutes and hear from you your answers to this popular question...What do YOU want?

Let me now add a few words to the end of that question and see what your answers may be.

What do YOU want...to be when you grow up?

to be remembered for?

in your relationship with your friends?

in your marriage?

in your family?

to get done today?

to do with your spare time?

your money to do for you?

Now let me add one word at the end of our question, "What do you want?" and find out what a HUGE difference this will make in how we answer the question. That one word is "GOD."

Now listen to how our question sounds: "What do you want GOD?"

What do you want GOD...for me to be when I grow up?

for me to be remembered for in my life?

in my relationships with friends...marriage...family?

for me to do today?

for me to do with my spare time?

for my money to do?

When we add God to the end of the YOU question we get a totally different perspective on how we answer the question. In fact, when we add God we will find some of our answers getting the "You ain't right!" response from people.

Jesus basically shared with the folks in his mountain message that there were two ways to ask and answer the question, "What do you want?"

What do YOU want for YOU?

What do You want God for me?

Jesus shared that there was no way to serve both answers. We either want what WE want or we want what GOD wants for us.

Listen to how Jesus' closest follower, John, wrote about all this wanting:

"Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world---wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important---has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out---but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity."

I John 2:15-17 Message bible

Jesus calls us to make a choice on what we want:

World's ways	God's ways
Material	Spiritual
Earthly values	Eternal values
Culture of greed	Life of only need
Covet	Content
Resent	Relish the simple

How you answer the question of "What do you want?" reveals so much about you and your values.

Your wants reveal you!

Jesus reminded us that wherever our treasures, our wants, are is where we will most want to be, and end up being. (vs. 21)

Where do you want to be in life? With or without God's wants for you?

There is a way to take a personal survey to see how we truly answer the question, "What do you want?"

The survey has three questions:

1. Who or what has the ultimate POWER over your life?
2. Who or what determines your PRIORITIES in your life?
3. Who or what gives you your PERSPECTIVE on life?

POWER!

What would you think has the most power over people? The power of money!

Jesus referred to it often. It is the main power that can persuade people to want what money can get them over what Jesus promises them.

Jesus was straight up when He said,

"You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and money both." vs. 24

Money, no matter how much or how little you have, has the power to take God's place in your life. It can become your master and it is a hard and deceptive master. How can you know if you are wanting money more than God?

1. Do you think and worry about it frequently?
2. Do you give up doing what you want or like to do in order to make more money?
3. Do you spend a lot of time caring more about your possessions over the people in your life?
4. Is it hard for you to give your money away?
5. Are you so in debt as to embarrass yourself?

Our culture pushes us to wanting more. We are drowned in ads to buy. We want more and we end up drowning in debt. More month than money!

The power question gets back to a faith or trust issue.
How ironic it is that the money we want has on it the warning label:

"In God we trust!"

Who do you trust more? Your money or God? Who do you place your faith in: money or God?

Each time you pull a coin or bill out to pay for something stop read that warning label and be challenged with the question of trust...power!

When we place our trust in the power of God over money, folks may look at us and say, "You ain't right!"

PRIORITIES!

What do you want sets up the list of your priorities in life?

There is one word I think of when it comes to priorities...

SIMPLIFY!

Maybe you have heard the phrase, *"Live simply so others can simply live."*

There is another word to think on when we look at priorities...

CONTENT!

When we put these two words side by side we can find a guide to answering the question of "What do you want...what are your priorities?"

Simply be content. Be content by being simple.

The Apostle Paul, while in prison, discovered and proclaimed his priority when he wrote:

"I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am." Philipians 4:11-13 Message bible

Paul was simply content in whatever he had and wherever he was in life because his priority was in God and not himself. He trusted God's promise to see him through and to provide what he needed. Paul had chosen to want in his life the essentials of eternity over the nonessentials of this culture. When you and I make that choice, that priority in our lives, others may say to us, "You ain't right!"

The writer of Hebrews echoed Paul's words of content when he wrote:

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5 NIV)

Who sets your priorities? Money or God? When we allow God to fully set our priorities in our daily lives people will most likely look at us and say, "You ain't right!"

PERSPECTIVE!

The power and priorities of what we want only come together when we look at what we want from God's perspective...His vision of life.

Spiritual vision is seeing clearly from God's perspective what God wants us to see and do in our daily life from His point of view.

Self-serving wants and desires can cause **"covet cataracts."**

We want what we don't have. We want what others have.

God spoke of this perspective in the 10th commandment where we are instructed not to covet what others have. (Exodus 20:17)

Coveting clouds out God's vision in our lives.

We can become content when we see life from God's perspective. We begin to simplify when we allow God to show us the essentials.

We begin to clear out our garages and storage sheds of life when we see things from his perspective.

We spend our lives working, spending, collecting/hoarding things. All of that will rust, break, get stolen or remain behind when we pass on. I have done many funerals and I have yet to see a U-Haul trailer attached to the hearse. But what I have heard is the arguing of family members over...inheritances...money... possessions!

Perspective! What do you want?

Jesus contrasted earthly values and eternal values. We are challenged in what we want with how we use our money.

When we ask, "What do you want God with my money?" we hear the answer of 10%, the tithe.

If I found a ten dollar bill while we were walking and I offered to give it to you if you gave me a dollar out of it would you take my offer?

All we have God has blessed us with. God has given you what you have?

But some may say, "Wait a minute! I work hard for my money. It's my money to do with as I want!" Let me ask you, "Who blessed you with the ability to work? Who has provided that income? Are you willing to give back to Him the tithe...the 10%... the dollar? Why not?"

"I live on a fixed income!" We all do. We all are to fix our income on what God wants...God's perspective!

Live within your budget! The needs over the wants. The essentials over the non-essentials.

When we tithe...give sacrificially to God who has given us all we have, people will say, "You ain't right!"

What do you want?

How you answer this question depends on whether or not you are going to want His power, priority and perspective in your daily life.

What is the question you will wake up to each day?

What do YOU want?

or

What do you want God?