

When Motives Collide

Series: Motives Matter

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November 21, 2021

As I have said motives for God always precede from His nature and are perfectly in alignment with His words and actions. God's motives precede from who He is. However, man's motives are very complicated at times. There are not only layers of why we do what we do but sometimes our motives collide. We have conflicting motives. When this happens there is often a crisis that follows. That is why it is important to be single-minded.

Consider these verses:

Matthew 6:22-24

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

The Case of David:

Listen to some of David's own words:

Psalm 119:165

Great peace have those who love Your law,
And nothing causes them to stumble.

Psalm 119:10

With all my heart I have sought You;

Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

Psalm 101:2-4

Psa.101: 2 I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. 3 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me. 4 A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.

It was said of David:

1 Kings 11:4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

But what about the Bathsheba affair and cover up murder in 2 Samuel 11?

David's double mindedness was revealed in 2 Samuel 12:1-10 (read)

- David's default motive was devotion to God.
- But, David was not immune from other motives taking over his operating system, like lust.
- He allowed these motives to collide.
- However it was not clear until Nathan told the story and the conflicting motives became clear.

The Case of Peter: slide fourteen

Peter was probably the most outspokenly devoted disciple in the bunch.

Look at Peter's heart:

Matt.16:21-23, 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

- His devotion to Christ led him to not even think of Jesus being killed.
- Matt.26:31-35, 31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." 33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you

will disown me three times.” 35 But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

- Of course you know the rest of the story. His motives collided.

What do you do when your motives collide? When it is revealed that your motives for following Christ are not completely single-minded? When you look in the mirror and see someone who mostly is motivated by the love of Christ but has those moments when we regress to the elementary principles of the world?

We come back, we repent, and we reclaim the purest of motives. As Paul said in 2 Cor.5:14-15, 14 **For Christ's love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.