

Some Motives of Jesus

Series: Motives Matter

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The American Psychological Association: complex motives
simultaneous, multiple desires to achieve one or more goals. For example, desires may be compatible and oriented toward the same goal (e.g., working hard due to a desire for success as well as a desire for money) or incompatible and oriented toward opposing goals (e.g., desiring to achieve success through work while simultaneously desiring to relax by not working).

Heb.4:12, 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Understanding why we do what we do can be pretty difficult. Being honest about our motives can also be difficult. Learning to check ourselves not merely because of the content of our words, but also the motives of our words is a wise practice. We must learn to ask, "Should I say or do this?" If I say "Yes" then we should take it a step further and ask, "Why?" What is my motivation for saying or doing this thing? What do I hope to accomplish by this? Here are a few guiding principles to consider:

- 1) Will this accomplish the will of God?
- 2) Will this be helpful to the other person or harmful?
- 3) Will my words and actions harm me or my loved ones?
- 4) Am I reacting or responding in my words or actions?
- 5) Are my motives clear to me or fuzzy?

The "why" of your life is what will make you keep going when you want to quit. Slide Preaching 101 assignment.

I thought today we would take a look at some of the motives of Jesus slide five for insights into His thoughts and intentions. Let's see what we can learn:

Matthew 9:36, 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Motive: Jesus saw the crowds as they actually were, not as they appeared to be.

Matthew 11:20, 20 Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.

Motive: Jesus knew that repentance precedes acceptance. He was motivated by this truth.

Matthew 11:25, 25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Motive: Jesus praised God because He saw the value of giving truth to those who are humble enough to receive it.

Matt.13:58, 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Motive: Jesus withheld gifts based on the faith of the individual. Why? Because Jesus did not want to put undo pressure on people to believe in Him. He was looking for the balance-enough evidence to believe but not too much that a person could choose to disbelieve.

Matt.20:15, 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

Motive: God operates out of His character, e.g. generosity.

John 5:19, 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

Motive: Jesus was motivated by what He saw His Father doing.

John 6:57, 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

Motive: Jesus motive for the life He lived was His Father-as our motive for the life we live should be Jesus.

John 15:15, 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Motive: Jesus' motive for calling us friends is because He reveals His business to us.

John 16:8-11, 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Motive: The Holy Spirit's motives in conviction include: people not believing in Jesus, Jesus going to the Father, and the condemnation of the prince of this world. Each of these are critical to a person's salvation.

John 16:27, 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

Motive: God loves those who love His Son.

John 17:24, 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Motive: Jesus wants us with Him because He knows how wonderful it will be for us to experience the same kind of love that He experienced from all eternity.

Jesus was crystal clear on why he did what he did. There was no selfishness or self-serving motives in Him. He was able to articulate the "because" in every situation of life.

1 Thess.5:22 says "Test everything and hold on to what is good." That includes motives.

Next week we will begin to unpack some of the common, less than noble, motives of man.