

Sermon Quotes
September 23, 2007
Dan Walsh- Our Greatest Need Has Already Been Met

Scripture Text- Mark 1:1 – 12

*“The objects of most of our desires are not evil. The problem is the way they **tend to grow**, and the **control** they come to **exercise over our hearts**... The problem with desire is that in sinners it very quickly **morphs into demand**...The expansion of desire doesn't end there. **Demand quickly morphs into need**. I now view the thing as essential to life...How often do we live with a sense of need for things we do not need at all? How does this change the way we view ourselves, our lives, others and God? How much envy, discouragement, bitterness and doubt of God comes from being convinced that we are being denied the things we need to live life as it was meant to be?”*

—Paul David Tripp

*“All evil behavior is motivated by an over-inflated sense of self-worth that replaces the worth of God and the worth of others. This is written into the genetic code of every sinful action: **Me first, Me last, glory be to Me**. Frederick Buechner said it well: 'We all tend to make ourselves the center of the universe.' We live in a world where everybody looks to everybody else to make himself or herself happy. To paraphrase psychologist Larry Crabb, **everybody is a tick in search of a dog**.”*

—John Ensor

“There is a restless craving in the human heart for something better than this world can give. There are aching voids; deep, yawning chasms in the soul of man, which the world and all its tinsel pleasures can never fill. The world is ever clouding and coloring the future with the prospect of a happiness which the present denies. The worldling will cleave to the world as the center of his system. The world holds out its happiness as consisting in earthly things. Lured and dazzled, the worldling pursues a phantom. But each successive failure more painfully convinces him that all here in this life is a delusion. Happiness—the object of his life search—remains as far from him as ever.”

—John MacDuff,
1861

*“The evil in our desires often lies **not in what we want** but that **we want it too much**.”*

—John Calvin

*“So how do you know where and what you worship? It's easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. At the end of that trail you'll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what's **of highest value to you**. On that throne is **what you worship**. Sure, not too many of us walk around saying, 'I worship my stuff. I worship my job. I worship this pleasure. I worship her. I worship my body. I worship me.'* But the trail never lies. We may say we value this thing or that thing more than any other, but the volume of our actions speaks louder than our words. In the end, worship is **more about what we do than what we say.**”

—Louie Giglio

A Simple Heart-Idol Test:

“How can I tell if something I desire has become an idol of the heart?”

Anything in your life, that if taken away, leaves you with no joy in God.

Or...

Anything you want now but don't have, and not having it, leaves you with no joy in God.

1 Corinthians 10:14 “Therefore, my beloved, **flee from idolatry.**”

Galatians 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **idolatry**...I warn you, as I warned you before, that **those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

*If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Savior!*

—Chuck Swindoll

“Though I cannot know what your afflictions (sufferings) are, yet I know what your mercies are, and I know they are so great that I am sure there can be no afflictions in this world as great as the mercies you have. If it were only this mercy, that you have this day of grace and salvation continued to you: it is a greater mercy than any affliction. Set any affliction beside this mercy and see which would weigh heaviest; this is certainly greater than any affliction. That you have the day of grace and salvation, that you are not now in hell, this is a greater mercy. That you have the sound of the Gospel still in your ears, that you have the use of your reason: this is a greater mercy than all you're afflictions.”

—Jeremiah Burroughs