TITLE: DESIRE

TEXT: Gen. 3:1-7 & 1: 1-3; Ro. 7:14-24; Gen. 4:7 & 39:2-7; 1 Co. 10:13; Jere.29:13-14

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about desire. How many of you have desire this morning?

We all do! Desire is a God given attribute that He created within mankind.

Desire is what draws a man romantically towards a woman. Desire motivates a man to propose to the woman he wants to make his wife. There is not a person here this morning that is not the product of desire. Whether planned at the time or not our conception came about through desire.

Desire is a very strong and motivating force in our life.

Example: My Desire for Chicago Pizza! If I am anywhere around Chicago I start to desire it’s Pizza. Mention Chicago and the first thing that comes to my mind is Pizza and I start to desire it. I desire it so much that I would gladly drive 100 miles out of my way to get an authentic Chicago pizzeria Pizza.

Desire can be a very powerful thing in our life. Desire can cause us to do great and wonderful things and desire can cause us to do bad and even very terrible things.

A young single woman desiring to have a quality relationship with a man. The desire to have a man in her life consumed her thoughts throughout the day. One day at the library she saw a book on the library shelf and quickly she grabbed it signed it out. The title page of the book read:

HOW--

To Reach Men

To Hold Men

To Win Men

It Has Been Done

When she got home and examined the fine print at the bottom of the page, she read: A Manual of Useful Information on How to Build a Men's Bible Class.

Not exactly what she desired to learn.

All of us have desires. Some good, some not so good, some down right bad. But we all have desires.

**de·sire 1. To wish or long for; want. 1. A wish or longing. 3. The object of longing: *My greatest desire is to go back home.* 4. Sexual appetite; passion.**

Our desires often become our passions…

My desire for Chicago Pizza has become a passion in my life.

Desire can be a very powerful thing in our life

Powerful for good and powerful for bad.

**Genesis 3:1 - 7 (NASB) 1Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”****2The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;****3but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” 4The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked…..**

**6When the woman saw that the tree was desirable; she took from its fruit and ate;**

The Hebrew word translated as desire here is:

**châmad *khaw-mad'***

**A primitive root; to *delight* in:—beauty, greatly beloved, covet, delectable thing,) delight, desire, lust, a precious (thing).**

What caused the woman here to desire, to covet, to delight to the point of lust, in the forbidden fruit?

Because the serpent had said: **5“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God knowing good and evil!**

Here is the thing… God had created mankind in His own image and likeness. Mankind had been created with the knowledge of good. They were created with the knowledge of God..

The heavens and the earth were both created within the same parameters of Gods image of goodness…

In the beginning evil did not exist anywhere in God’s creation. Either on the earth or in the heavens.

God created and He created good!

**Genesis 1:1 -3 (NIV)**

**1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

**3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4God saw that the light was good….**

And then we go on with the creation account….and after God creates more and more He always stand backs and pronounces goodness to what He has created.

When God is all done with His acts of creating He stands back as an artist would stand back from his completed masterpiece and makes this final pronouncement…..

**Genesis 1:31 (NIV) 31God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

God said it was VERY GOOD!

**Good= ṭôb *tobe***

**From**[**H2895**](about:blanksteplinkto0%200000002928)**; *good* in the widest sense; (*good*, a  *good* thing, the *good*, beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, fine, glad, graciously, loving, pleasant, precious, prosperity, sweet, wealth.**

God preceded this word with the word very!

**Very= me’ôd *meh-ode'***

**properly *vehemence*, *vehemently*; by implication *wholly*,  exceeding,** **utterly, very (+ much)!**

**ve·he·ment (v¶“…-m…nt)1. Characterized by forcefulness of expression or intensity of emotion or conviction; fervid: *a vehement denial.***

God said that what He had created was very Good--- Good in the widest and highest and broadest sense of what good is!

So where did the knowledge of evil come from?

If God created everything in the heavens and on the earth good then where did evil come from in the first place? Did God create evil if evil exists?

Do you know when evil came into being, when evil came into existence and how it came into existence?

Evil didn’t exist in all of God’s creation…. Until an angel named Lucifer, a mighty angelic being that God had created, rebelled against God, and by so doing brought evil into existence! Evil is not a created thing but a manifestation of an action!

Evidentially even the angels were created with free will just as mankind had been created with free will, the right of choice.

Lucifer was the first among Gods creation to exercise his free will against God and with that act evil was conceived.

Do you know what the serpent was really saying to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when he said: **5“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**?

At that moment in time Adam and Eve just knew God, they just knew Good.

Satan was trying to introduce mankind to himself!

What he was actually saying was that the moment that you eat from the tree which God commanded you not to eat from, the moment you disobey God, you will know me and you will be introduced to the personification of evil.

And Man took the bait--hook, line and sinker!

Fisherman know what they phrase means…It is when the fish wants the bait so bad that they just don’t bite at the bait and get hooked on the hook but they actually swallow the bait and the hook the line and the sinker go into their belly!

A fish just hooked by the lip at least has a chance to get off of the hook but a fish that has actually swallowed the hook is doomed. There is no way that he is able to get off of the hook because it is embedded so deeply within him..

Mankind took the bait hook, line and sinker! He was caught with no possibility of getting off of the hook.

Mankind was introduced to evil. Satan was successful in introducing mankind to himself.

And what was the result? Good and evil would now have to abide, coexist together. What God had strived to shield us from, through disobedience we came to embrace---evil.

What happened the instant that man disobeyed God and embraced evil?

His eyes were opened and he released that he was naked and felt ashamed…

The tragedy here was not that man was naked but that man was ashamed of his nakedness.

What brought about that shame?

His newfound knowledge of evil! Now man had lustful and inappropriate thoughts when he looked upon nakedness.

Man became a sinner! And what is sin? Sin is the embracing of evil.

And when man embraced evil even his desires became corrupted.

The Apostle Paul illustrates this corruption of nature and desire very well in:

**Romans 7:14 -24 (NIV)**

**14We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.****16And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.**

**17As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.****18I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.****19For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.****20Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.**

**21So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22For in my inner being I delight in God’s law;****23but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

**For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out!**

How can we have the desire to do good but end up doing bad?

Because we have a nature that has been corrupted by evil.

Adam and Eve, as created, only had one desire! God! That was it! God! To walk with God, talk with God, fellowship with God, enjoy the creation of God! All of their desire was God centered! That is why God created desire within man!

So that man would desire Him!

God never intended for man to desire anything that was not centered upon Himself!

That is why Paul, and each of us, have such a struggle with our desires today! Because with evil, desire became corrupted!

**15I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.**

**17As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.**

What Paul is actually saying here is that I have the desire to do what is good but I have a greater desire to do what is evil…

And if that is not bad enough, that not only do we have the desire to sin but sin itself has desire!

**Genesis 4:7 (NASB) 7“If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”**

**Sin is crouching at the door; and its** (sins) **desire is for you!**

Sin itself has desire and its desire is to have its way with you! To own you! So that it can destroy you!

Satan is the author, the origination of sin. Sin is Satan’s offspring. It is Satan’s desire to have his way with you, to own you so that he can destroy you!

The way that Satan, the enemy of our soul, works against us is often very subtle….

One day a Godly young Hebrew slave by the name of Joseph came up against the subtlety of Satan’s deceptions..

And what Satan tried to use against Joseph was desire….

**Genesis 39:2 - 7 (NIV)**

**2The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.**

**5From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6So he left in Joseph’s care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.**

**Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!”**

Joseph says no, but Potiphar’s wife doesn’t give up. On several more occasions Potiphar’s wife tries to get Joseph to go to bed with her.

Joseph stands strong and always says no thank you.

Then we are told of a time when Potiphar’s wife gets all of the other servants out of the house so that they are all alone and lures Joseph up to her bedroom. Potiphar’s wife is no doubt a very beautiful woman and Joseph is a healthy young man and now he is in a situation where no one would ever know. Everyone is out of the house but the two of them. This woman has desires and they are very strong! She actually grabs Joseph and demands that he sleep with her!

It says that Joseph literally turns and runs out from under his cloak and leaves her standing their holding onto it!

Now there are different takes on this story. Some say that Joseph was so appalled at this seduction that he ran out in disgust of the thought of having sex with this woman.

I don’t know that I buy that. Could it possibly be that what could have happened is that Joseph may have started to have a desire to do it. His sexual desires may have started to be aroused and he knew that if he didn’t get out of there and get out of there fast that he might find himself giving into evil and finding himself in bed with her. That Joseph realized that sin was crouching at the door of his life and had a desire for him and that his only way of escape was to turn tail and run.

Too many times when Christians fall to sin, especially sexual sin, they fall because they try to stand up to something that they are not spiritually prepared to stand up to. Or they think that they are beyond that kind of temptation. That they could never be tempted to desire this kind of evil.

King David was a righteous man. Possibly the most righteous man of his day. God had described David as a man after His own heart.

Yet what happened to David? He was overcome by desire!

Scripture says that a time when Kings go out to war David stayed in Jerusalem. That was David’s first mistake. He placed himself in a place that he shouldn’t have been.

His place was to be out giving support to his troops and he elected to kick back at home and send the second in command of his army in his place.

David had too much free time on his hands and as he was walking on his roof patio one evening he sees a neighbor lady bathing on her patio roof…He looks, he lusts, he desires, he succumbs… He takes sins bait hook, line and sinker!

You men here this morning….And ladies…. If this could happen to a man after Gods own heart then don’t be so arrogant to think that it could never happen to you.

You place yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time and sin is crouching at the door ready and waiting to have its desire for you fulfilled and that desire that it has for you is destruction….

So does that mean that we need to walk around in a constant state of fear of the enemy?

NO! Scripture says that “**greater is He who is in us then he who is in the world”.**

We don’t need to fear the enemy but we do need to respect our enemy. We need to be aware of his schemes.

We need to always be aware that he roams this earth like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour.

We need to live our life, not in a constant state of fear, but we need to live it in a constant state of readiness to defend ourselves.

The difference between Joseph and David was their state of readiness.

David was tempted by sexual desire and fell to it…Joseph was tempted by sexual desire and escaped its trap.

Joseph escaped evil desire by doing what David didn’t do…and that is turn tail and run from it…

**- 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)** **13No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

Did you catch that?

**But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

Sometimes the way of escape that God provides for us in the face of temptation is retreat! To turn tail and run as fast as we can!

I believe Joseph took that option.

If he lingered he may have fallen into sins desire to have its way with him.

David lingered and sins desire had its way with him.

Guys, do you know how sins desire for us most often snags us?

Too often, especially guys are too proud to retreat and because we are too proud to retreat, to turn tail and run for our lives, many times we end up falling into sins desire to have its way with us…

Man has desires! Sin has desires! And Satan himself has desires!

Satan’s desire is revealed in the names by which He is called in Scripture…deceiver, disputer, masquerader, liar, devourer, murderer, tempter, seed snatcher, betrayer, schemer, destroyer ….

All names that reflect Satan’s real desire…. To see you, to see me destroyed!

But God also has desire and that desire is also reflected to us in the names by which He is called in Scripture---

Creator, Comforter, deliverer, defender, rock, salvation, redeemer, provider, protector, fortress, Love, peace, eternal life, sacrificial lamb, conqueror…

Names that all reflect Gods desire for us.

God created us with a purity of desire and the purity of desire that He created within us is a desire for Him.. A desire to love Him and obey Him and worship Him and fellowship with Him.

That desire within us has been corrupted by sin…

But Gods desire remains as it always has been….To have a relationship of love with us and have us desire to have a relationship of love with Him.

God tells us how we can have that desire renewed to what He originally intended in:

**Jeremiah 29:13 - 14 (NIV) 13You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.****14I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity.**

The greatest achievements in life are usually accomplished by people who have a singular desire that becomes the ruling passion of all they do.

For example, when Bob Feller was a child, he loved to throw a ball. By the age of 5 he spent hours every day pitching through a hole in the barn wall. At 10 his father bought him all the necessary equipment and provided him with a playing field on the family farm. At 13 he pitched for a local team and averaged 20 strikeouts a game. At 17 he began playing for the Cleveland Indians. As a major leaguer he had 6 seasons as a 20 game winner, 3 no-hit games, 11 1-hitters, 266 wins, and he set a record of 348 strikeouts in 1 season. He is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Bob Feller had one desire – baseball…

Just think what we could do in this life as a Christian if we make God our one primary desire in life?

Do you have a desire for God this morning? Not just a desire to be forgiven by God and saved by God but do you have a desire for God?

A desire to know Him and Love Him and Worship Him and Serve Him?

A desire to truly fellowship with Him whereby He literally becomes your desire?

**13You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you, and will bring you back from captivity.**

Oswald Chambers,

*The core problem is not that we are too passionate about bad things, but that we are not passionate enough about God.*

I have a devotional that I read from called the Valley of Vision. This devotional is simply a collection of Puritan prayers.

Puritans where Christians whose main desire in life was the exercise of spiritual disciplines and of living Christ centered lives.

I would like to close with one such Puritan prayer this morning

O THOU THAT HEAREST PRAYER

Teach me to pray.

We confess that in religious exercises the language of our lips and the feeling of our heart have not always agreed, that we have frequently taken carelessly upon our tongue a name never pronounced above without reverence and humility,

That we have often desired things that would have injured us,

That we have depreciated some of our chief mercies,

That we have erred both on the side of our hopes and also of our fears,

That we are unfit to choose for ourselves, for it is not in us to direct our steps.

Let Thy Spirit help our infirmities, for we know not what to pray for as we ought.

Let Him produce in us wise desires by which we may ask right things, and then we shall know that Thou hearest us.

May we never be persistent for temporal blessings, but always refer them to Thy Fatherly goodness, for thou knowest before we ask;

May we never think we prosper unless our soul prospers, or that we are rich unless we are rich toward Thee, or that we are wise unless wise unto salvation.

May we seek first Thy kingdom and its righteousness.

May we value things in relation to eternity.

May our spiritual welfare be our chief care.

May we be poor, afflicted, despised and have Thy blessing, rather than be successful in enterprise, or have more than our heart can wish, or be admired by our fellow men if thereby these things make us forget Thee.

May we regard the world as dreams, lies, vanities, vexation of spirit, and desire to depart from it. And may we seek our happiness in Thy Favor, image, presence and service.

May our desire simply be Jesus and Him only!

Amen….