

As a pastor, one of the most common questions that I get go something like this, what is God's will for my life and maybe it comes a little bit differently, should I do this or should I do that? What is in mind for the future? What does God have in mind for me, for my family, for my career, for where I'm going to live or or how we're going to raise our children are wonder? Have you ever had questions like that? I know that we've had questions like that and my family and I and we wonder what is God's will for us and for our lives, but what about your future? Who you become in the years ahead? What does. What does out there? Wherever there is for you, whenever that is in the future, what does that look like? What will life be like when you get there?

Yeah.

Part of what we know about where we're going to be in the future, who were going to be that, what our lives will be like? Is that the future you have to do with the decisions that we make today, the decisions that we make today have an impact on what our lives will look like tomorrow when we think about where God wants us to be, somewhere out there, we have to consider where we are right now and the way that we're living our lives today.

Yeah.

This worship series is designed to help us understand more about God's will because I imagine some of you are in the place perhaps even today of making significant decisions. I don't know what it is for you, but my guess is that here today, there's some of you that have decisions to make maybe in the next few days and the next few weeks and the months to come about that will affect your family at will affect your career, affect this congregation perhaps, or make a difference in the community. What decisions do you have to make today that will make a difference in what your life will be like tomorrow when it comes to God's will, God's will? What? Uh, what is it that God cares about? We're going to look at two today that build a foundation for the weeks ahead. What does God care about as we all seek to move in the divine direction, and the first thing is today, the first thought is this, God cares about who before do God cares more about who we are than what it is that we do. When it comes to God's will, God cares about who we are, the person that we are in, the person that we are becoming.

Yeah,

the scriptures tell us that God's will for us, for you and for me is to be holy, to become more like Christ, to love God and to love our neighbor. Got We don't see in the scriptures lined out exactly what it is that we're supposed to do with our life. What we see more often and most clearly is the people that we to become

God's will. Is it necessarily God's primary will isn't necessarily for us to be a teacher or a missionary or any other job. God's will first is about being holy. Yeah, about being set apart, about being different. If, if you're a follower of Jesus Christ, you're not to look like this world, to be driven by the values of this world, to align ourselves more with our community around us, but instead to be conformed to the image of Jesus. Part of why that is the series called divine destination, because there's not a particular place, we're not all going to end up at the same destination, and not only that, it's a lifetime journey. We are always making our way there. You never arrive. Instead, we're moving in a direction. We're becoming more like Jesus are becoming like him. When we're looking at the stories of scripture we see Jesus doesn't talk much about calling or a w. Jesus doesn't talk much about people's careers. Instead, he

talks more about our calling and our character. Yeah, he doesn't talk very much about what we are to do. In fact, about the only time that Jesus talks about someone's job is in relationship to leaving it behind so that they could follow after Jesus. OK? Who you're following, Jesus is even more important than what it is that you're doing. Who before do

the question that people often ask is this, what does God want me to do? What and do? I'd like to invite you to consider perhaps another question, which is this, who does God want me to become?

OK?

Who Does God want me to become? If you start with the WHO will eventually lead you to do, when you're becoming who God wants you to be, you will find your way. God cares about who before do. The second thought for the day is this. God's will oftentimes has more to do with the why instead of the what? The why instead of the what?

Yeah,

motives matter to God. Let's take a look at proverbs chapter 16 verse two. It says this, all the ways of people are pure in their eyes, but the Lord tests the motives, all the ways that people are pure in their eyes, but the Lord tests the motives. You may think that everything is right in your world, the decisions that you make. Often times we find that of course we think we're doing the right thing where we're headed in the right direction because I'm the one that made the decision and we find that that what God loves it looks at is, is why we do the things that we do, the real reasons behind it, the motives that we have, or there's an old saying that goes, there's always two reason for doing something that the thing that we tell other people is the reason why we're doing it, and then there's the real reason that we are actually doing that. The reason that we will admit to publicly, and perhaps there's a more a private reason, and you might think of this in, in a number of examples in your life, both a trivial and I'm more important than and more significant.

When you think about the decisions that you've made in your life, is there a difference at times between what you say is the reason that you're doing something and why you're actually doing it?

Yeah,

I know that's been true in my life at times. Uh, those motives, those, those reasonings, those desires, that the why behind what it is that they don't always match up and God calls us to something different that causes us to live a life in which the decisions that we make, that we're able to say publicly and, and, and, uh, as well as privately the same thing. Here's why we're doing what we're doing. Sometimes, uh, we make these decisions in our families, in our careers, in the way that we choose to spend our time, our motives matter to God.

OK?

Consider the words of psalm 1:39 says, this, examined me. God, look at my heart, put me to the test, know my anxious thoughts. Look to see if there's any idolatrous way in May. Then lead me on the eternal path. Have you ever prayed a prayer like that? One of the things about the psalms is that they can become our own prayers and this is a very serious one. When we think about the why that we do

things, the motive, that motivation that we have behind doing what we do. This is a word of scripture that's powerful. Examined me, God, how often do we ask that? Look at my heart, put me to the test, know my anxious thoughts, look to see if there's any idolatrous way in me and lead me on the internal path.

OK?

This is a different way of being a then choosing, making decisions based on our own as a way of asking God instead to pay attention. Oh God, not only to what I'm doing, but why I'm doing an exam on me. Oh God, look at my heart. Put me to the test.

Yeah,

it's unsettling sometimes. How often are our motives can be different between why we're actually doing something and what the reasons that we give others.

Yeah.

Our motives to often can be me centered instead of Christ centered or or focusing on on the good of others. Too often it can be what I want. That motivates us.

Yeah,

and here's part of the challenge. If you're thinking about moving the divine direction, whatever that place is out for you, wherever that place is out there somewhere, if you think about moving to that place, it can be hard to get there. If you don't start out with the right why, if you don't start out with trying to shape your life after Jesus, and if you don't try to live out the fruits of the spirit, begin to develop these things in us that the character that God calls us to, it's hard to get to the right place. When you start with the wrong motives. Why matters to God? Paul wrote it so powerfully in our scripture passage for today from Colossians chapter three. Whatever you do, whether it's speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the father through him,

and

here's what's so powerful that this is the first words here. Whatever you want,

do whatever you do, what you do,

perhaps less important than who you are becoming. Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Whether you're just beginning your career, whether you own your own business, whether you're a student or a teacher, an administrator, a retiree, whatever you do in speech and in action by what you say, the words that you use, how you interact with other people and what you do, how you choose to live your life, how you choose to spend your time. What are we to do to do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Whatever you do, wherever you are served Christ there. Wherever you live, serve Christ in that place. Wherever you're working, serve Christ there instead of saying, you know there's some big thing out there somewhere that I'm going to wait until that happens or this right opportunity comes available for me. Instead, serve Jesus right now. Pay attention to the person that you are, the character that you

have, how you interact with other people and God will follow you on the way walks alongside us. When we serve Jesus right where we are now, we can trust that God will walk with us to the place that we want to be.

Sometimes we make the mistake of assuming that really we just have a few big decisions to make in life about where we're live perhaps, or a job or I don't know what it is, but but the truth is instead of a few big decisions that we have in our life, there are thousands of decisions that we make every day. If he'd say, I don't want to live a life that is pleasing to God, one in which I love God and love my neighbor. It's not just one or two or three decisions that we make. There are decisions every day, every day we have the choice to follow after God or to turn away from God.

OK?

We can make choices that help us live in the light of God's love or we can make choices that that step us a little bit further into the darkness. Choices in which we say yes to God and things that we say no to God and it's just not. The big things is how we interact with the person that's checking our grocery store at the gas station or a neighbor that maybe we'd kind of gets on her nerves at times and these little interactions move us a little bit closer to go a little bit further away from God and they help us or they heard us

in our desire to move in the divine direction. When we get small decisions right, God leads us step by step into the right places. The good news for us today is that when we are living in the name of Jesus, we don't have to worry about the future because God will walk with us. We can trust that perhaps it's not so we want to know what it is and what it is that what to do, but when we pay attention to who we're becoming, we can trust that God will walk with us no matter what, the what and no matter what to do and that we can be certain and trust in God's presence and God's calling. We can all be moving in the divine direction, so be who God calls you to be today. Pay attention to the person that you're becoming. Listen for God's direction in the little steps and whatever you do, wherever you live, whatever your job, whatever your family situation, live in such a way that you glorify Jesus. Be Faithful with what's right here and God will walk with you to whatever it is that's next. Will you pray with me?

Wow.

To trust you in the small daily decisions, give us strength and guidance as we seek to live in your light and to live faithfully. Strengthen us by your spirit. Guide us and direct us not just in big decisions but in small daily decisions as we seek to be faithful. In your holy name we pray. Amen.