

## Motives Wk 2 Guys and Girls

We started a new series last week entitled motives. It can be difficult for us to understand or get a handle on our motives at times. Even the Apostle Paul struggled at times with his motive, look at what he had to say....

Ro 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Last week we used this definition of what a motive is...

“What’s behind what you do, did, or are about to do”

And we all have them, we all have stuff behind what we do or what we’ve done. Maybe you’ve never actually thought about what that stuff/reason is. But we all have them. Last week we looked at the two major motives in our lives and how they relate to our relationship with God. The motives of giving and taking, we got into detail about what those motives look like and looked at some biblical examples of each. We looked at three characteristics of each motive...

Givers:

- Actually give, see a bigger picture, understand what Christ has done for them and want to give to others

Takers:

- constantly take and want, see themselves first/blind to others, want to gain as much as possible for themselves/ they don’t understand what Christ has done for them.

Tonight we are going to build on that, and take a look at what those motives look like in context of the relationships we have with each other. To start us off I want to give you a funny picture of what takers look like in the context of a marriage relationship. DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwkO97I99O4>

Scripture has a lot to say about takers, here’s one of the passages that apply...

*Jas 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? Jas 4:2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. Jas 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures... Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Jas 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Jas 4:9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

Scripture outlines the characteristics of a taker in this passage, someone wants something, but doesn't get it so they do whatever it takes to get what they want and they don't get what they want because it's about them. With that scripture also provides a remedy here; submission, humility, repentance. These decisions will change the heart of taker to a giver.

Just like there are a number of passages that apply to takers there are also some biblical examples. One of which is found in 2 Sam.13. I don't want to spend a lot of time in this story, because what happens in it is wrong. But I do want to highlight some things for you...

2 Sam. 13 highlights,

- Amon is encouraged to take advantage of his desire
- Amon fakes illness to get what he wants
- Amon takes full advantage of situation to gain what he wants
- Horrendous, hateful, and deadly consequences

I don't know if you've noticed or not, but there is a certain amount of overlap between the taker characteristics in this passage and in the one we looked at last week.

1. There was a selfish desire; Ananias and Sapphira it was popularity with Amon it was sex.
2. There was a lie and a lack of respect; Ananias and Sapphira lied about the money and didn't respect God or his law, Amon lied about his illness and didn't respect God's creation or God's law
3. Their plans were both premeditated.

The one difference between the two is this, and this is the big difference between your motives with God and your motives with others. When your motives with God aren't right, then you deal with the consequences of your actions. When your motives with others are right, not only do you deal with the consequences but so do the people that you are involving. In fact you actually possess the ability to destroy a person's life like we saw here in with Tamar. Some of you like that idea, that you have power etc. The thing is God will hold you accountable for your motives and your actions. If you go back to the passage we looked at in James, we can read the passage and see practically what happens when the taker principles rule a person's life and the consequences of being a taker who constantly uses people.

One other thing I want to point out before we move on to impact of giver in the context of others. I know that in this passage it was totally the guy who took advantage of the girl. And in most cases when it comes to this stuff, guys get a totally bad wrap and for good reason. They're motives are much more physically obvious than girls a lot of the times. On the other hand just because a girl isn't as obvious with her desires, lack of respect and lies, and premeditated actions might mean that she probably will get away with a little more, but it doesn't mean that she doesn't have them. In fact some girls are worse takers than guys, they just take differently. Instead of maybe attempting to take guys purity, they take his emotions. They play mind games, flirt, and lead guys on when really there's no intent of a relationship. They just like having the attention. Essentially they are doing the same thing guys do physically but instead they are doing it emotionally and mentally.

Givers on the hand are a different breed, when scripture talks about givers it doesn't say the word give as much as it talks about love and the Holy Spirit. Check this out...

*Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children Eph 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

*Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Eph 5:24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in*

everything. <sup>Eph 5:25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* <sup>Eph 5:26</sup> *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,* <sup>Eph 5:27</sup> *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* <sup>Eph 5:28</sup> *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* <sup>Eph 5:29</sup> *After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—* <sup>Eph 5:30</sup> *for we are members of his body.* <sup>Eph 5:31</sup> *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."* <sup>Eph 5:32</sup> *This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.* <sup>Eph 5:33</sup> *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

I'm not sure if you remember last week, but when as a reminder here are the characteristics of a giver again....

Givers:

- actually give, see a bigger picture, understand what Christ has done for them and want to give to others

We saw this last week in the context of a community, the early church. In the passages in Ephesians we see it on a more personal level. Similar to what we talked about on Sunday concerning accountable relationships. This is the type of relationship we see in this passage. There is actual giving. There is a giving of love and of self. We also see a bigger picture. You see it's not just how God feels about his church or about how a husband and wife relationship should function, it's both and. God has given us each for a broader picture and a broader purpose than we can understand either by itself. Lastly we see that there is an understanding of what Christ has done here. This is all in the context of His love and of His Spirit at work. Without those two items we don't have anything.

One other thing I want to point out that's implied in this passage about givers is this, givers are patient. If you look at Eph. 5:31 we see that it's quote of the OT. Where it is first written is Genesis. This is during the beginning of time when God created man and woman in his image...

<sup>Ge 2:18</sup> *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."* <sup>Ge 2:19</sup> *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.* <sup>Ge 2:20</sup> *So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.* <sup>Ge 2:21</sup> *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.* <sup>Ge 2:22</sup> *Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.* <sup>Ge 2:23</sup> *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."* <sup>Ge 2:24</sup> *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.* <sup>Ge 2:25</sup> *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

Here's the question that I want you to wrestle though. And the reason for this is that if you have the heart of a giver this'll be one of the most difficult temptations for you to fall into the life of a taker. Do you see anywhere that Adam when looking for a companion....? Did he look anywhere for someone to do life with....? No, we don't see that. What we do see is that God brought Eve to Adam. When it comes to your motives with others, especially with guy/girl relationships, do you find yourself in pursuit? In other words are you allowing God to bring a person into your life, so

that your gifts won't be misused? Or are you trying to find a companion? Maybe you're pursuing another person more than you're pursuing God? How can that be a giver motive? Selfishness is already creeping in. Think about that. At just the right time, God brought Eve to Adam so that they could be givers and not takers. What about your relationships and the motives in them, are you more of a giver or a taker?

If you are a taker or even if there are elements of being a taker in your life, scripture gives some clear steps to becoming a giver; humility, surrender, repentance. The question for you is this, are you willing to sacrifice yourself for God's kingdom and the sake of others. If you aren't then humility, surrender, and repentance are just attempts @ going through the motions. But if you're serious then begin to reflect on God's grace and forgiveness. Thank him for the things he's done and the things he's given. To end I want to give you this quote from the message, I think this is one of the most important steps in moving from a taker to a giver....

*<sup>6</sup>"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. <sup>7-13</sup>"The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. Mt. 6:6-13 (MSG)*

---

#### Suggested Discussion Concepts:

1. Do you guys know any "pick up" lines? (Need suggestions ?

<http://www.pickuplinesgalore.com/cheesy.html>)

- What is a common characteristic in all of those lines (the motive is to gain something)
- Who do those lines center on? (Self)
- Would you really want to marry a person who caves into those lines? Would that be the type of person God would want you with?

2. Possible video to show, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkhG\\_y\\_HVZY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkhG_y_HVZY)

- Do you think the person who loves in this sense is a giver or a taker, why or why not?
- Who would you rather be in a relationship with a giver or a taker?
- What are some of the results (positive and negative) of being involved in a relationship with a giver/taker?

3. Why are some people so willing to give of themselves (physically, emotionally, etc) to others who do not have their best interest in mind? (*Don't understand their value, want to be loved/accepted, don't understand what God has done for them*)

4. Besides immediate and shallow satisfaction (negative) what do you think are some of the long term side effects of being a taker?