

Motives: What is the Heartbeat of Your Mission?

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Intro: When we talk about the “heartbeat” of something, we are referring to the driving force, or the motivation behind something. When we refer to our “mission,” it is referencing the Great Commission of Matt. 28 to go into all the world and make disciples, baptising them, and teaching them. So, the heartbeat of our mission refers to the driving force or motivation of us obeying this mission, or Great Commission. Why do we do it?

Our motive isn't a side-issue. It is very important to God and the Bible says our works that we do here will be tried and we will receive rewards or suffer loss. The criteria for the rewards is our motives.

So, what is it that really motivates you to obey the call to missions?
Jesus made clear to avoid this first motivation:

1. The Praise of Men

Matt. 6:16-18

- Jesus was referring to their fasting practice here
- What was their motivation?
- Matt. 6:2 - the same thing was mentioned about their “deeds”
- Matt. 6:5 - praying for all to hear

Is fasting wrong? Is giving to God wrong? No, these are good attributes. What is the problem? The motivation.

But now let's look at biblical motivations:

2. Love

Matt. 22:37-39; John 14:21

- But notice carefully this: the Bible does not allow for a love for God without a corresponding love for others.
- When someone loves another, they will care about what the object of their love cares about
- Since God cares about people, the one who loves God also will love people

While keeping this the chief motive, we also acknowledge other accompanying motives that are worthy:

3. Gratitude

- Perhaps its difficult to separate gratitude from love
- Example: The woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tear-soaked hair – Luke 7:36-50
- Gratitude is the result of receiving God's grace - Romans 12:1

4. Eternal Significance

What things do we do that have eternal significance

- A. The manner in which we conduct our lives - Matt. 5:16

- B. Sharing Jesus with others

5. Rewards

Matt. 16:27 - The New Testament actually says quite a lot of rewards for the faithful believer. This cannot be ignored or cast aside as not a noble motivation. However, as the overarching motivation of love, even this motive becomes more noble.

Rev. 4:4, 10-11

- Most agree these elders are representative of the NT church
- The crowns are crowns they have earned and were rewarded with for their service to the Lord
- What did they do with these crowns? It seems to have become a magnificent way of worshipping their Lord and Saviour:

What crowns might *you* be able to offer in worship to the Lord when the time comes? It's not just about us doing missions – which we must do. It is also about our motivation behind everything we do.

Questions:

1. Why is the praise of men so appealing for many? Why is it so dangerous and how can we avoid being tempted by it?
2. How would you describe the difference, if any, between the motive of love and the motive of gratitude? Can they be separated?
3. Why do you think many ignore the motive of rewards for faithfulness? How can we rightly view and look forward to this time? (Our motive isn't to just place our rewards on our mantle for all to admire us, but to actually be used to worship the One who is worthy)

Prayer: “Father, thank you for calling us to partner with Your plan of missions. Before Jesus left, He gave us the command to go and make disciples of all nations. This we desire and seek to do, but we also realise that our motive for obeying and serving must be right. Help me to truly love You with all my heart, all my strength, and all my mind. Help me to love the things You love - people. Thank You for Your great salvation through Jesus Christ. I pray in Jesus’ name, amen!”