



ABUNDANT LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH
69, IJU ROAD, AGEGE, LAGOS
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
JUNE 2019

TOPIC: MOTIVES AND THE HEART
STUDY II: TYPES OF MOTIVES WITH EXAMPLES
TEXT: JEREMIAH 17:9

INTRODUCTION:

In our previous study, we saw what motive means. A man acts based on the intent of his heart. There is no behavior which a man exhibits that does not first happen in his heart. If a man thinks well, he acts well but if he thinks badly, he acts badly. Today, we shall be looking at the types of motives with Biblical examples for clear illustrations.

TYPES OF MOTIVES:

There are two types of motives:

- a) Good Motives
- b) Evil Motives

Good motives emanate from God who is holy and has no darkness in Him while evil motives come from the devil who is rebellious, disobedient, envious, wicked, etc.

EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL PERSONALITIES WITH EVIL MOTIVES (GEN. 6:5)

Prov. 23:7 says, *“For as he thinks in his heart so is he; eat and drink, said he to thee; but his heart is not with thee”* King Solomon here attempted to convey a truth which if adhered to, would serve as guiding principles for our lives irrespective of our field of work.

Motives reveal the real man behind certain ideas, actions and masks over people’s behaviours. *“Eat and drink but his heart is not with you”*. If his heart is not with you, where then is it? There is something sinister about his apparent desire to make you eat. This is demonstrated in the following stories:

1. ABSALOM AND AMMON (II SAM. 13:28)

From verse 1, we see how Ammon the heir apparent to David’s throne waxed lustfully after his half-sister Tamar, who was Absalom’s younger sister and ended up raping her. Absalom expected a maximum death sentence to be passed on Ammon but his father failed to do so. He then pretended to accept the judgment in

good fate but he nursed an evil motive. Two years after the unfortunate incident, Absalom planned a shearing feast, extending invitation to all his siblings including Ammon his elder brother.

Ammon saw it as a reconciliatory gesture initiated by Absalom his brother and went. On the contrary, Absalom's heart was far from reconciliation. He wanted revenge and he took it while Ammon was having a good time at the feast - II Sam. 13:28.

Many people have lost their lives on feasting tables because they sipped from poisoned goblets. If Ammon had known Absalom's real motive, he would not have attended the party.

2. DAVID AND URIAH (II SAM. 11:4-15)

After David discovered that Uriah's wife Bathsheba was pregnant from the illicit affair he had with her, he decided to call back her husband Uriah from the battle front. He praised Uriah, fed him with wine until he became drunk. In his drunken state, David sent him home to sleep with his wife. Unfortunately, Uriah didn't. When David discovered that the sacrificial and disciplined life of Uriah would not let him fall for his evil motive, he sent him back to the war front with a letter that instigated his death.

3. JOAB'S KISS (II SAM. 20:9-10)

Joab called Amasa "brother" and kissed him, yet his motive was evil because he killed him eventually.

4. JUDAS ISCARIOT:

In John 12:1-6, we see the story of Mary who poured a very costly ointment on Jesus and the fragrance filled a whole house. We can also see the reaction of Judas Iscariot (one of Jesus' disciples). He rebuked the woman and said that the ointment would have been sold to get money which would have been given to the poor.

His real motive was unveiled in verse 6, *"This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and that he was in charge of the purse and bare what was put therein."*

Behind the zeal of Judas for the poor lay his greedy motive to have the oil sold so that he could steal part of the proceeds.

CONCLUSION:

We must always check our motives; whether they are good or evil because we can only deceive human beings but not God. The reason is that He weighs the spirit as well as the intent of the heart. We should also check the kind of kiss (friendly gesture) we share

with people whether it is with good or bad motive. Remember, Judas Iscariot went to the garden of Gethsemane to kiss Jesus like a friend but his motive was that of betrayal.