

“PARTY ON, DUDES?”

Leader Guide



Preacher: Pastor Brandon Bradley

Overview: Last week, Pastor Casey preached about Bill and Ted Theology: “Be excellent to one another.” This week, we focus on the follow-up: “Party on, dudes.” Pastor Brandon explores Psalm 37:3-4, addressing the common misinterpretation that trusting God gives us license to pursue any desire. He distinguishes between desires of the heart (God-designed) and desires of the flesh (consuming and destructive), ultimately calling believers to celebrate appropriately while preparing for the eternal celebration with Christ.

Text: Psalm 37:3-4 - "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

I. Raising the Question

- **Question:** Does trusting God mean we get to do whatever we want, as long as we sprinkle in a little trust in God? Is it “party on, dudes”?
- Hobby Lobby sign misinterpretation: "Trust God... he will give you what you desire"
- “I just feel so good that if I trust God, if I love him, I have freedom to do what I want.” Is that what today’s passage really saying?

II. Understanding the Tension

- **Question:** Does Psalm 37 discuss a party, where you can do whatever you want?
- Context: David wrestling with the success of the wicked, envy for what they have (Ps 37:1-2).
- Core question: Will I worry about the wicked/envy their success or trust in the Lord (37:3)
- **Main Point:** Psalm 37 is about choosing who to trust, and what you’ll pursue, not about a party.

III. Discerning Our Desires: Heart vs. Flesh

- **Question:** What are the desires of your heart? Or, are they actually the desires of the flesh?

Desire of the Heart

Designed by God

Reveal who God made you to be

Open doors of blessing to others

Celebrate eternally

Desire of the Flesh

Take you away from God

Feed your fallen, sinful nature

Consume you and those near you

Severely limited party

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- Biblical Example: As Adam and Eve consumed the fruit, the desire of the flesh consumed them, and it cut them off from God.
- Core Question: Are your desires consuming you—or blessing you and others?

IV. The Choice to be Made

- **Question:** Did the Biblical heroes (Hebrews 11) get to do whatever they wanted?
- No, they chose God's will over personal preference resulting in deep joy.
 - Abraham: Left home without knowing destination; willing to sacrifice Isaac (Heb 11:8-9, 17-19)
 - Moses: Chose mistreatment with God's people over Egyptian pleasures (Heb 11:24-28)
 - Rahab: Risked her life to align with God's purposes (Heb 11:31)
- Each endured hardship, focused on future blessings, to experience the delight of living for the Lord.
- When we delight in God, our desires begin to look like His.

V. Living It Out

- **Question:** How do we know what that looks like today? How could we have such a mindset?
- WWJD principle: "What would Jesus do?" If Jesus were standing in my shoes, how would He live this moment?
- Text: Romans 12:1-2
- Don't conform to world's patterns (party of the flesh); be transformed by the renewing of your mind, embracing the desires of God, to reflect the heart of God.

VI. Hope for When We Fail

- **Question:** Have you ever chased the wrong party?
- **Romans 7:** Paul's struggle with doing wrong despite good intentions. We do too.
- **Romans 8:1:** No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus
- Grace provides forgiveness and chance to repent, and delight in God again.
- Now celebrate! It is a spiritual practice: 1) Recognize where God is working in your life, give thanks, celebrate what He is doing, 2) Worship in recognition of God's work, and celebrating His presence with us as Immanuel.

VII. Practicing for the Eternal Party

- **Question:** Does Jesus know how to party?
- **John 2:** Wedding at Cana - Jesus' first miracle (water to wine)
- Future: Marriage supper of the Lamb - ultimate celebration

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- Present: Celebrate God's work in our lives now, as we look forward to the party of all parties.

VIII. Closing Challenge

- **Question:** Which party are we preparing for?
 - Fleeting party of the flesh vs. eternal party of the Kingdom
 - Jesus is the source of eternal life, and the only way to join that celebration is to trust in Him and align the decisions of our lives with Him.
 - Where Has God been showing up in your life this week?
 - What have you been doing with Jesus this week?
 - Where have you experienced his presence?
 - What reason do you have to celebrate Jesus this morning?
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Head Questions (Understanding/Knowledge)

1. What is the difference between desires of the heart and desires of the flesh?
2. How does the context of Psalm 37:1-2 change the interpretation of verses 3-4?
3. What examples from Hebrews 11 illustrate choosing God's will over personal preference? How?
4. How does Romans 12:1-2 relate to the concept of having transformed desires?
5. What is the significance of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana for this message?

Heart Questions (Attitudes/Affections)

1. What desires in your life might be consuming you rather than blessing you and others?
2. When have you struggled with envying the success of those who seem to ignore God?
3. How do you typically respond when your good intentions don't match your actions? (Romans 7)
4. What would change in your life if you truly believed "there is no condemnation for those in Christ"?
5. What evidence of God's presence in your life this week gives you reason to celebrate?

Hands Questions (Application)

1. What practical steps will you take this week to "delight in the Lord"?
2. How will you practice the spiritual discipline of celebration in your daily routine?
3. What specific area of your life needs to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind"?
4. How can you apply the WWJD principle to a current decision you're facing?
5. What reason do you have to celebrate today: Where Has God been showing up in your life this week? What have you been doing with Jesus this week? Where have you experienced his presence?