

The Continual Pursuit for More

Many of us battle with believing the lie that if we could just get “**THAT**,” a little more of **THAT** - I would be happy, fulfilled and satisfied with life.

THAT is what’s missing in your life!

But when you end up getting more of that you recognize that **THAT** didn’t satisfy the need you had, so you think you need a little more of **THAT**, but when you get a little more of **THAT** you realize that **THAT** promises a lot but **THAT** doesn’t always deliver.

Theme that is more relevant in our time than ever before in history:

The pursuit of FAME

- The desire to be known, to be liked, to be admired, to be accepted, to be respected, to be followed, the desire to be famous.
- Most here today think this doesn’t pertain to me, I’m not really seeking to be famous.
- You may not be in a full pursuit of fame, but you may have “**Micro – Cravings for FAME.**”
 - We want to be known, loved, accepted:
This desire shows up in very small ways in our lives even as Christians.
 - When you over-commit to a project or people.
You end up doing more than you’d like to because you don’t want to let anybody down, you have a deep need to be liked by everybody.
So the Micro Craving for Fame causes you to say yes to everybody and everything.
 - You want to get the credit for something that you do:
A job at work, around the house, in the neighborhood – wherever; you want people to know that you did it.
I gave, I want them to know that I gave; I serve, I want them to know that I serve. If I’m showing up to do something, you want people to give you credit.
 - You’re overly sensitive to criticism:
You can’t handle any kind of rejection.
A hundred people can tell you something is good, but if one person says a negative comment; you fall apart.
“They don’t know the real me!” “That’s not fair!”

A Micro Craving for FAME – I want everybody to like me and accept me.

Social Media has become the breeding ground for the hunger for FAME:

- Did you “LIKE” my picture, my caption.
- If they don’t get enough “LIKES” they take down or change the pic or comment.

We Live for LIKES and long for LOVE

4. For those of you who are above all of this hunger for LIKES and to be known, admired, respected, followed or famous.

- Chances are your children or friends around you are struggling with this.

Research about this desire to be famous shows that 10-12 year olds:

- Their top desire and number 1 goal in life is **not**:
 - Financial security, not for success or achievement, not for community or great relationships.
 - The number 1 goal for 10-12-year-old **is to be famous**, to be broadly known, to be accepted, respected and famous.
- Research shows those between 22-37 year olds:
 - 50% of them believe their life should be made into a movie.

Research also shows what people would be willing to do for their name to be a household name:

- 1 in 12 people would actually disown their family to become a household name.
- 1 in 9 would give up on the possibility of marriage to become a household name.
- 1 in 6 would give up having children.

People today are willing to give up what is most important just to attempt to become famous.

It is not totally wrong to be famous. God has made some people famous:

- Abraham – the friend of God.
- David – a man after God’s own heart.
- Solomon – wisest man in all the earth. Became the richest and most famous also.
- Jesus – because of His love, miraculous power was/is famous.

While it may not be wrong to be famous, the pursuit of fame can be VERY dangerous to your faith.

- The trajectory of trying to be famous takes your heart away from God and other people and moves it towards yourself.
- It is very difficult to be focused on others, when others are focused on you.
- It moves the love of your heart away from God and others towards you.

There was a time when a person really had to accomplish something in order to be considered famous:

- Break a land speed record.
- Walk on the moon.
- Be a famous actor, politician, inventor, scientist. – Something significant,

The nature and accessibility of fame has moved from doing something significant to the absolutely absurd:

- Facebook superstars who become famous for doing absolutely ridiculous things.
- Anything goes nowadays.
- Alex, the ordinary 16 yr. old who worked at a Target in Texas, was photo snapped by an admiring girl and his picture went viral. Ended up on CNN with over 20 million followers. He lost his job due to people wanting him to pose for a pic and the lines backed up. Now he's seeking an entertainment career.
- This is why so many hope their post will go viral and it will launch them into stardom.

True, you can leverage all the attention and use it for good purposes, but be careful – typically a person can't handle the fame because it draws our hearts away from God and others and puts the focus on ourselves.

Alex ended up crushed by the popularity.

If you don't believe what research has said, or what the Bible says; you might be convinced by what Jim Carrey says:

“I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.”

What and where is the answer?

One example of someone in scripture who got it right and knew how to handle the pressure to become famous is John the Baptist.

- The prophet who dressed in animal skins and had a strange diet.
- He created a following and crowd because he was interesting and unique.
- His message was: “I’m here to prepare the way for the Messiah, you need to repent and turn to the Lord.”
- Crowds would follow him as he grew in popularity.
- He had to deal with the micro doses of fame, as people asked him if “He was the One – the Messiah that should come?”
- If John had been born in our culture, he may have been tempted to think: “Well I’ll leverage this popularity and build my brand and build a stream of income but I can still point people to Jesus and receive some of the fame for myself.
- But instead, he said: “NO, don’t ever confuse what I’m here to do. I’m not even worthy to untie the Messiah’s sandals.
- What John said should be our position: John 3:30 “Jesus must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”
- John’s heart was for people to see more and more of Jesus, and less and less of him. Because it’s never been about me, not my name being known, it’s about Him.

John refused to be like Lucifer: who in Isaiah 14:13-14 said five times “I will ascend, I will exalt, I will sit, I will ascend, I will be like the Most High.”

- Lucifer wanted it to be all about him.

So, how do we keep the right perspective in a culture that glorifies fame?

- In a culture that pressures all of us to seek to make our name, reputation famous?
- How do we represent Jesus?
- It all comes down to **MOTIVE**

Two very important questions:

It’s imperative to answer truthfully. When we answer truthfully; we will find we many times don’t have the right motive.

1. Who are you representing?

- When you show up, when you post, when you talk; who are your representing?
- We all are tempted to represent ourselves. We do, say, perform things to get people to like us.

2Cor. 5:20 gives insight into who we are to be representing:

“So we are Christ’s **ambassadors**; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, Come to God.”

What is an ambassador?

Ambassador = “The highest ranking diplomat sent from one nation to another nation to represent the home territory.”

As an ambassador for Christ, you are the highest ranking diplomat sent from Heaven to earth to represent God.

As an ambassador, when we walk into the room, light, hope, the very presence of the Kingdom walks into the room.

By what we say, by how we act, by how we love, by how we dress, by what we post and communicate on every level; we are representing Christ.

You are a witness one way or another.

Either you are properly representing the Kingdom of God or you are shirking your duty to represent Him properly & seeking to promote yourself.

Who are you really representing with your lifestyle?

2. **Whose approval matters most?**

- The answer is, it should be Jesus.
- But are you playing to the crowd, laughing at jokes you shouldn't be part of, trying to fit in, failing to let Light shine, hoping people will like you and accept you as popular?

Instead of living **from** the approval of God,
we many times are living **for** the approval of man.

Why? Why are so many living to be known, accepted, popular, be part of the crowd, be noticed?

Psychologists tell us the root for wanting fame is caused from an injury and neglect.

- The craving to be noticed, admired & popular come from the experience of feeling insignificant.
- You may have had parents who were difficult to live up to their expectations.
- You may have been rejected and at some point you felt overlooked.
- The longing of your soul is to be known, noticed, validated, accepted.

Here is what we need to focus on that will heal us and give us the proper perspective:
1Thess. 2:4-6 “For we speak as **messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the good news. Our purpose is to please God, not people.** He alone examines the motives of our hearts. **As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.**”

Who are you representing and whose approval matters most?

Less about me, following me, noticing me.

More about HIM, following Him, noticing and keeping your focus on HIM.

When our culture pushes us towards fame, the desire to be noticed, important - realize that desire is rooted in injury, its rooted in sin.

It's a false promise and it can't deliver.

We are called to something higher and better –

We are not called to be famous – we are called to be FAITHFUL!

Faithful to the One who is faithful to us!

When you live a life worthy of the One who has called you, you will stand before Him one day and He will not say: “Well done by good and famous star – NO”

He will say: “WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.”

When you serve every day and every week and no one knows your name; be assured – HE knows your name and what you've done for Him and others. Rev. 20:12 – **books** opened in heaven – judged out of the things recorded in the books.

He honors your service, your faithfulness, your tithing, your praying, your faithfulness in the areas of your life when you do it year after year.

You need to be reminded:

The world may not know your name, but HE knows your name and who you are and what you've done for His Kingdom.

He calls you loved, chosen, blessed, favored. You're not living for the crowd; you're living for HIM.

Psa. 115:1 “Not to us Lord, not to us but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness.”