

Volume 3, Day 2: Tyranny of Desires

Here's a great contrast, a tyranny of what we want opposed to a delight in what God wants. We don't think of it that way. We think of our dreams and hopes and visions and desires as something that's very good, and we enlist God into our Army to help us fulfill those for us. However, Jesus is inviting us into a different pursuit: "Feel loved by God, right where you are in life, as it's already unfolded for you. Learn to live loved right here and now. Feel His presence within you. Know His passions. Believe that His desire is to use the very circumstances you're already in. When you feel His love for you in difficult places, you'll want to love others in the same way.

I remember being on a flight years ago and I was sitting in my seat on the aisle. Some lady was coming in with too many children, too many bags, too many car seats and banging into people. My attitude was like, what are you doing traveling alone? Can't you think this through before you get on an airplane? But the man next to me in the aisle seat across the way, jumped up from his seat, turned to the lady and said, ma'am, looks like you need some help. What can I do for you? And he helped get her children arranged in the seats, helped get her stuff up in the overheads, and I'm sitting in my seat feeling like a fool.

And I remember saying to God, "God, I don't want to be **this** guy. I want to be **that** guy. I want to live like that in the world. I don't want to be so focused on what I want and what I need, that I'm not aware of the needs of others. I want to be aware of others' needs and to be a blessing to others in the world, not someone who is fighting to have his own way." Essentially, I wanted God to transform me to be other preferring, like Jesus.

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson