



hearted

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day one: Restless and Unfulfilled

READ Luke 15:11-16, Hosea 2:5-7a.

What do you think prompted the son to leave his home? What do you suppose he was looking for? Did he find it? How is he like Hosea's wife? What are you looking for when you find yourself wandering from God?

One hunger fulfilled still leaves us unsatisfied, which leads us to search out yet another. We can't be content with something that doesn't satisfy. What's the evidence you've seen in our culture which affirms this thought? Have you experienced a longing for satisfaction in your own life? How did you try to satisfy it?

READ John 6:35, Psalm 145:16 and Isaiah 55:1-3.

In Augustine's Confessions he made the statement, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

PRAY: Thank God that He created you with a longing deep within your being that can only be satisfied by knowing Him. Ask God to open your eyes and mind in order to acknowledge that He's the One you truly long for. Pray you'll see His goodness, His provision, and His care for you today.

As you're searching, will you accept the invitation to be satisfied in Christ?

day two: Search Me

READ Hosea 2:13b.

How do you think Hosea felt when his wife so boldly turned away from him toward other lovers? Do you think God feels that way when we allow ourselves to place anything but Him at the center of our affections?

PRAY Psalms 139:23-24. Ask God to show you throughout the day any offensive way in you. Slow down and allow God speak to you.

It is not scientific doubt, not atheism, not pantheism, not agnosticism, that in our day and in this land is likely to quench the light of the gospel. It is a proud, sensuous, selfish, luxurious, church-going, hollow-hearted prosperity.

Frederic D. Huntington

day three: Good Sorrow

READ 2 Corinthians 7:8-11.

In this passage, the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians about Godly sorrow. God sends us the gift of regret when we become aware of broken relationships, destructive attitudes, and sinful behavior. Paul didn't want to say hurtful words to the people in Corinth [whom he loved] but he realized the path to healing and wholeness with God must go through a season of Godly sorrow. As followers of Christ we should understand that times of repentance and grief over our sin is healthy and necessary.

No one wants to feel bad. We certainly can overdo it and never move on to the joy of forgiveness, acceptance and health. When we're trapped within the sorrow, it can turn into self-pity or self-loathing.

This is **not** healthy. When dealt with properly, Godly sorrow motivates us. Verse 11 tells us it produces earnestness, eagerness, indignation, alarm, longing, concern and readiness -- a desire to clear ourselves of broken and sinful living. It creates urgency for repentance - a turning back to God.

PRAY: Ask God to show you if you need to experience some Godly sorrow this week. Pray Psalms 139:23-24 again. Thank God for the Godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

day four: the Gift of Consequence

READ Psalm 51:8; Jeremiah 31:1-9.

Review the *Gift of Consequence* section from last week's message outline. Have you ever considered a consequence as a gift? If fire didn't cause pain, we'd get burned. God gives consequences for our unhealthy and sinful actions so we won't lose ourselves to these behaviors.

REFLECT: What consequences for broken behavior has God brought to your life that have made you come to your senses and turn to God and a healthier path?

PRAY: Can you thank God for consequences He's brought into your life even if they've caused you pain and disappointment? Can you see how He'd use these consequences to ultimately become blessings in your life?

day five: the God who Allures

READ Hosea 2:14; Zephaniah 3:14-17.

Do you believe God's ultimate plan is to bring us through a season of longing, grief and brokenness so He can allure or pursue us.

Do you see He longs to bring us to a safe place to speak tenderly to us?

THANK God that He seeks to make you satisfied in nothing but Him and that He would still allure you. Ask Him to begin to turn your Godly sorrow to joy in the Lord.

PREPARE for worship this weekend as we celebrate the God who pursues us. Sing a song of praise -- maybe Amazing Grace.