

Speaking to the desperate looking person in the car behind me, I would offer them a message of hope, and an encouraging word that being brought to a state of desperation is not necessarily a bad thing. I would encourage them not to be quiet, but to seek support and counsel. I would encourage them to shout to the Lord their true emotions.

But what drives us forward (no pun intended) is not just desperation. I would tell my new friend in the rear view mirror that what also motivates us is "aspiration." The things we aspire to are equally important to those things for which we are desperate. We all know that our goals define us. Even if we do not consciously acknowledge our goals, we are all subconsciously aspiring to something. If we want to move out of a life of quiet desperation, we also need to look at the goals to which we aspire.

Much of my life has been spent learning about Jesus' words recorded in the gospels which tell us that those who want to be "great" must become a servant. "Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." (Mark 10:44, NIV). That is a really hard thing for me, and perhaps for you, to set as a goal to which we should aspire. It seems almost "un-American." These are really, really hard words for people like me, and perhaps like you, to use as a guide to my life. And yet there they are. The things to which we *should* aspire are the opposite of the things to which we usually do aspire: money; fame; career; recognition; and so on.

What if God called us to walk in some desert-land for our entire adult life, with no home, no spouse or children, walking and talking with a small group of friends from town to town until one day we were to be placed on a cross for a public death because the message we were given by God to say offended the wrong people. Would I go? Would you?

The Kingdom of God sets before us goals to which we should aspire which are much different than the goals the world suggest. The church does a disservice to God and to its followers when it mixes Kingdom aspirations with worldly aspirations. So, today, as you prepare for the week ahead, think on your aspirations. Do you aspire to be a servant of anyone? Do you see yourself as a "slave of all." That is the path to greatness.

"God, I pray that you will make me desperate for You. I pray that You will help me to aspire to Kingdom-greatness. Amen."

Will you make that your prayer today?

Shalom,

Bill