

FLIPPED.

DEVOTIONAL

The Flipside of Desire | Matthew 5:27-30

By David Daniels, Senior Pastor

I'm a sucker for chips and salsa. The fresher the chips and more abundant the salsa (thank you, Chuy's), the less I wonder where the server is to take our dinner order.

Therein lies the problem.

I'm easily satisfied by pre-appetizers. They're free, accessible, abundant. So, by the time my Rancho Enchiladas arrive, I'm already full. No room for the main course because I feasted on filler food.

Last Sunday's passage was specifically about sex, but more generally about satisfaction. Lust is passionate desire. And, while we most often use the word in the context of promiscuity, we may equally lust over gadgets, golf clubs, automobiles, apparel, furniture or face lifts. Lust is the endless pursuit of satisfaction in anything other than God. This is why lust always ends in loss.

In Haggai 1, God's people were supposed to be repairing the temple of God so they would have a place of worship. Instead, they spent money and time building their own custom homes. The result was tragic: *"Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."*

Fill your life with *anything* other than God and you will come up stuffed, yet unsatisfied. However, Jesus invites us to the table and offers us "life to the full" [John 10:10]—a daily relationship with the living God that makes everything else pale in comparison. And, every time—I mean *every* time!—I connect with Him, I lose my appetite for everything else. The psalmist declared, *"Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire beside You"* [73:25]. This fullness comes from an abiding relationship with God.

The question is, how do we desire God more than anything else? When our passion for sex and drink and salsa is so strong, how do we find our greater satisfaction in Him? The answer is: Pursue God. It's that simple. You will never discover how delightful God is until you choose to pursue Him—discovering Him daily through His Word, talking/listening to Him in prayer. And, as you "taste and see that the Lord is good" [Psalm 34:8], your pleasure in Him will displace all other temporary pleasures. In time, we won't even think of indulging ourselves on empty snacks when the main course of the living God is available to us.

David Daniels is PBC's 5th Senior Pastor. Prior to his call here in 2005, he served churches in Minnesota and Austin, Texas. He earned his BFA in graphic design from UT Austin, a MDiv from Denver Seminary and a DMin from Dallas Theological Seminary. David's commitment to global missions has taken him to China, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, Hong Kong, Estonia, Mexico, and Ethiopia on short-term trips. He was a contributing writer for *Discipleship Journal* and, more recently, is an article contributor for the 2011 *Quest Study Bible*. He is co-founder of Beta Upsilon Chi (Brothers Under Christ), a national Christian fraternity and has served on its executive board. David and Tiffany love discipling their three children: Grant, Pearson and Jenna.