

### ***Romans 6:19-23 • “Duty Into Choice”***

**Key Question:** As a Christian, the battleground is one of desires. What is the desire behind your desires? What you believe will satiate the desire from which all other desires originate is the key.

*“What can this incessant craving, and this impotence of attainment mean, unless there was once a happiness belonging to man, of which only the faintest traces remain, in that void which he attempts to fill with everything within his grasp?”*

***Pascal***

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*

**C.S. Lewis**

*“But what cannot be destroyed, may be dispossessed and one taste may be made to give way to another, and to lose it’s power entirely as the reigning affection of the mind. It is thus, that the boy ceases, at length, to be the slave of his appetite, but it is because a manlier taste has now brought it into subordination - and that the youth ceases to idolize pleasure, but it is because the idol of wealth has become the stronger and gotten the ascendancy and that even the love of money ceases to have the mastery over the heart of many a thriving citizen, but it is because drawn into, the whirl of city politics, another affection has been wrought into his moral system, and he is now lorded over by the love of power. There is not one of these transformations in which the heart is left without an object. Its desire for one particular object may be conquered; but as to its desire for having some one object or other, this is unconquerable.”*

**Thomas Chalmers**

John 4:5 So he came to a town of **Samaria** called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

John 4:6 Jacob’s well was there; so **Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey**, was sitting beside the well. **It was about the sixth hour.**

John 4:7 A **woman from Samaria came to draw water.** Jesus said to her, **“Give me a drink.”**

John 4:8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

John 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, **“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?”** (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

John 4:10 Jesus answered her, **“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”**

John 4:11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. **Where do you get that living water?**

John 4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

John 4:13 Jesus said to her, **“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,**

John 4:14 **but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

John 4:15 The woman said to him, **“Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”**

John 4:16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

John 4:17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, **“You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;**

John 4:18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. **What you have said is true.”**

John 4:19 The woman said to him, **“Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.**

John 4:20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

John 4:21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

John 4:22 **You worship what you do not know**; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”

John 4:26 Jesus said to her, **“I who speak to you am he.”**

John 4:27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”

John 4:28a **So the woman left her water jar ....**

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?**

Romans 6:2 By no means! **How can we who died to sin still live in it?**

Romans 6:6 We know that **our old self was crucified with him** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**

Romans 6:7 For **one who has died has been set free from sin.**

Romans 6:11 So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 6:12 **Let not sin** therefore **reign** in your mortal body, to make you **obey its passions.**

Romans 6:14 For **sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.**

Romans 7:6 But now we are **released from the law**, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.**

Romans 6:15 What then? **Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!**

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as **obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death**, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Romans 6:17 **But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

Romans 6:18 and, **having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**

Romans 6:19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once **presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness**, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness **leading to sanctification.**

Romans 6:20 For when you were **slaves of sin**, you were **free in regard to righteousness.**

Romans 6:21 But **what fruit were you getting** at that time from the things of which **you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.**

Romans 6:22 **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**

Exodus 21:5 But if the slave plainly says, **‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’**

Exodus 21:6 then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, **and he shall be his slave forever.**

Romans 6:23 For the **wages of sin is death**, but the **free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Ephesians 4:17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the **Gentiles do**, in the **futility of their minds.**

1Corinthians 12:2 You know that when you were **pagans** you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

Ephesians 4:18 They are **darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, **due to their hardness of heart.**

Ephesians 4:19 They have become callous and have **given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.**

Ephesians 4:20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! —

Ephesians 4:21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as **the truth is in Jesus,**

Ephesians 4:22 to **put off your old self**, which **belongs to your former manner of life** and is **corrupt through deceitful desires,**

Ephesians 4:23 and to **be renewed in the spirit of your minds,**

Ephesians 4:24 and to **put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

Romans 12:2 **Do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1Peter 1:14 As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,**

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God, that **you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

No strength of nature can suffice  
To serve the Lord aright;  
And what she has, she misapplies,  
For want of clearer light.

How long beneath the Law I lay  
In bondage and distress!  
I toiled the precept to obey,  
But toiled without success.

Then to abstain from outward sin  
Was more than I could do;  
Now, if I feel its power within,  
I feel I hate it too.

Then all my servile works were done  
A righteousness to raise;  
Now, freely chosen in the Son,  
I freely choose His ways.

What shall I do was then the word,  
That I may worthier grow?  
What shall I render to the Lord?  
Is my inquiry now.

**To see the Law by Christ fulfilled,  
And hear His pardoning voice;  
Changes a slave into a child,  
And duty into choice.**