

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

September 9, 2020



With a little urging from our friends, we “set our heart” on a trip to Europe and we made it happen. We are glad we did. [Paris, October, 2018]

“Be careful what you set your heart on...”

When you want something badly enough, you’ll work really hard to get it. At least, that’s my experience.

When I was 13, I saw an ad for the Columbia Record Club. For \$14, you got a “stereo record player” and three record albums (*large, black vinyl discs, with grooves*). You had to sign up for the record club, receiving an album each month for which you had to pay a “discounted” price. This was a few years before 4 and 8 track tapes and long before cassette tapes and CD’s and eons before where we are today (streaming services like Spotify).

My parents did not give nor loan me the \$14. They were wise enough to make me figure out how to get it on my own so I found a job selling greeting cards door-to-door. While talking to complete strangers terrified me, my fear was overcome by my intense desire to have the vinyl objects of my affection.

I walked all over Coalinga, California, in the heat, knocking on doors and asking, “would you like to buy some greeting cards?” I had no sales technique, no clever opening line, no real plan — just a resolve to have that record player and those three albums.

I did it. It was one of my great victories in life, achieved simply because I wanted it badly enough. It also produced some regret because I got stuck with buying albums every month, most of which I hardly ever listened to. Each month I had to pony up to pay for the album of the month.

I think about this experience a lot, along with several other stories like it, where *I got what I set my heart on*, for good or ill. It

prompts a question that I often ask myself: *what do I really, really want and what am I willing to do to get it?*

God values the man or woman who sets their heart on knowing and serving Him. Ezra was a man like that: “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel” (Ezra 7:10). God rewards the “set heart” when the object of desire is godly. It works the other way, too. “Rehoboam... did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the Lord” (II Chronicles 12:14). Rehoboam set his heart on evil and got it.

The old saying, *“be careful what you set your heart on because you’re liable to get it”* is almost always true, for better or worse. How many men have been blinded by their desire to get the woman they desire, only to regret it for the rest of their lives? How much women have done the same for the “man of their dreams”? How much money did I spend on automobiles I just *had to have*? I would love to have even half of that money back.

Jesus had a “set heart” for the good of others. Luke says it this way, *“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem”* (Luke 7:51, 53). The determination to have something, despite the cost, can be a good thing or a bad thing. God rewards those who choose to follow Jesus’ lead and ask the question: *“If I get what I set my heart on, how will it affect me and others — for good, or bad?”* — and then set their hearts on the good.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
Email me at dpaulposey@mac.com or text me at (530) 558-5057