Sermon Notes

Title: Heart Matters

Various Texts

TIP (Take It Personal)

February 22, 2015

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The fool says in his *heart*, "There is no God." (Psalm 14:1)

Create in me a clean *HEART*, O God, and renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51:10)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole *heart*;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1)

You have said, "Seek my face." My *heart* says to you, Your face, Lord, do I seek." (Psalm 27:8)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my *heart* be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

God created human beings with a HEART:

a hidden spiritual place where our THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, ATTITUDES, INTENTIONS, MOTIVES, WORDS, and ACTIONS originate. According to Scripture our heart is the internal command center of our entire existence. The spiritual code programmed into our hearts is what ultimately makes us who we are. But unlike a computer chip, our hearts can be miraculously reprogrammed and transformed/changed! May God begin and/or continue this heart transformation in your life.

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1. OUR HEART REFLECTS PERFECTLY WHO WE ARE

READ: Proverbs 27:19, 20:5

If what is in our hearts perfectly reflects who we are, how much (what percentage) of the "real" us do we allow others to see?

Do you have any thoughts, feelings, attitudes, intentions, motivations that NO ONE else knows about? How is it possible that we can have things in our hearts that others are not aware of?

Do you reveal different parts or different amounts of your heart to different people? Why?

What is one thing in your heart that others may not know from the words and actions of your life?

2. OUR HEART IS WHERE GOD LOOKS AT OUR LIVES

READ: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Chron. 28:1-10; 2 Chron. 16:1-10

As you read through these stories, what do we learn about what God is looking for in the human heart?

What is God NOT looking at in our lives?

How does it make you feel knowing that God possesses a spiritual microscope to be able to look at all the things in your heart?

3. OUR HEART IS DESIGNED TO LOVE GOD AND BE OBEDIENT TO HIS COMMANDS

READ: Dt. 4:1-9, 4:25-29, 4:39-40, 5:29, 6:1-6, 11:18-21, 26:16-19, 30:6-14, 32:46-47

After reading these passages from Deuteronomy, how would you summarize how God originally created the human heart to function?

How much of our hearts are we supposed to love God with? What does a heart that knows and loves God do? (READ: John 14:15, 21-23; I John 2:3, 5:1-5)

Are you familiar enough with God's Word (His commands) to know what should and should not be in our hearts?

Is doing God's commands important to you? Why or why not? What does our obedience to God's commands say about what is in our hearts?

4. OUR HEART IS THE ORIGIN OF OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND ACTIONS

READ: Matthew 15:19; Luke 6:43-45

Where does Jesus say that our thoughts, attitudes, and actions originate from?

What fruit should we be displaying as Christians to demonstrate the "good treasure" that is in our hearts?

Have you ever tried to manage or change your outward behavior without dealing with what is in your heart? How did that go?

What needs to happen if we are going to have changed outward behavior in life?

5. OUR HEART IS WHERE GOD PLACES HIS SPIRIT IN ORDER TO DO A TRANSFORMATIONAL WORK IN OUR LIVES

READ: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 1:22, 3:1-18

Who was God making this new covenant with?

How does God include the Gentiles in this New Covenant?

How was this New Covenant going to be different from the Old Covenant?

How is obedience under the New Covenant different from obedience under the Old Covenant?

How does the Holy Spirit enter into someone's heart?

Share an example of a transformational work the Holy Spirit has done in your life.