

Story Time

Part 10 – It's All About the Heart (Luke 4; 2 Kings 5)

A strong Biblical Definition: That Spiritual part of us where our **EMOTIONS AND DESIRES** dwell.

- Unfortunately, in its natural condition, it is an **IDOL FACTORY**. (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21 -23; Genesis 6:5)
- The human heart is the core of our being. **ABOVE ALL ELSE** guard your heart. (Proverbs 4:23) (GateWay)
- What you are **SEARCHING** for and **CHASING** after that **REVEALS** the God(g) that is winning the war for your **HEART**.

The players in our story: Their hearts exposed...

“Serve Him with your whole heart” (1 Chronicles 28:9) Hold **NOTHING BACK** from Him! (Ephesians 2:10)

King David declaring what a healthy heart looks like. (Psalm 119:1 – 11)

- v. 1 - A person who **WALKS** blamelessly
- v. 2 - A person who **STUDIES** His words
- v. 3 - A person who simply **DOES** the right things
- v.4 - A person who diligently **OBEYS** God's ways
- v. 5 - A person who **PRACTICES** His statutes
- v. 6 - A person who loves to **TELL** others about Him
- v. 7 - A person who has a **THANKFUL** heart
- v. 8 - A person who **MEMORIZES** God's word

This describes the heart of Christ: (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2)

- Proclaim the **GOOD NEWS**. The object of the good news has arrived
- Proclaim **LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES**. Those in bondage to their sin no longer need be
- Give **SIGHT** to the **BLIND**. Providing the ability to see their condition clearly
- Set **FREE** those who are **OPPRESSED**. Those enslaved to their sin can be set free
- Proclaim the year of the **LORD's FAVOR**. Reconciliation was now possible because of Christ

John's inquiry (Luke 7:19 – 22)

Application:

- What are you holding back from Him? Reflect upon Psalm 119.
- Is your heart infused with divine DNA? What words or works do people see in you that affirm that truth?
- Do you find yourself inquiring, in what are perhaps our last days, if Jesus really is the Messiah? (Plant your Flag)

Life Group Discussion Questions – August 6, 2023

(Jesus after reading from Isaiah 61) **Luke 4:20-21** “And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

DISCOVER (Read Luke 4:14-30)

1. What were the people of Nazareth wanting from Jesus? What kind of proof would you have accepted if you had been in Nazareth at the time? What proof is there now that testifies that Jesus is God?
2. How do we judge whether Jesus is God? If you say you don't judge Jesus, then explain what convinced you He is God? Re-read v. 21. What was Jesus saying about Himself and His relationship with the Father and with Scripture?
3. What was the good news that was presented to the people of Nazareth? As a follower of Jesus, how is Christ calling you to “bring good news to the afflicted”?
4. How would you define the spiritual heart? What does a healthy spiritual heart look like? Why do people say that David was a man after God's own heart? See Acts 13:22.

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Kings:1-14. How did the king react to the request for help? Why did Naaman get mad when he was told what he needed to do in order to be cured? How is this analogous to the people of Nazareth who expected Jesus to perform miracles? In v. 13, how did the servants save the day? What was wrong with the heart of Gehazi?
2. Read Luke 4:24-27 again. Why did Jesus tell this story? Jesus is saying the people of Nazareth had a heart problem. What was wrong with the motives of the people of Nazareth?
3. Read Psalms 119:1-16. What does a healthy heart look like? With v. 6 in mind, when was the last time you told someone of Jesus? Who do you know that loves to tell others of Jesus? What kind of person attracts people to Jesus? What kind of believer drives people away from Jesus? Do different testimonies reach different people? If yes, then why should we be careful about condemning those who share the good news in a manner we find off-putting?
4. Read Isaiah 61:1-2. In Luke 4:21, Jesus says He unequivocally fulfilled the verses from Isaiah. If these verses are about Jesus, list all the things this short passage says about Him. There are at least seven things.

EXPERIENCE

1. Do we sometimes hold part of ourselves back from the Lord? If we are not sold out for God, then how can that hold us back from sharing the good news? How might your life change if you were fully devoted to the mission given to you by God?
2. Reflecting on Psalm 119, what aspects of a healthy heart are you missing? Is your heart infused with divine DNA? What words or works do people see in you that affirm that truth?

PRAY

Pray... Father, Jesus came to us and perfectly fulfilled His mission. Praise you for loving us from the beginning and sending Your Son to proclaim the good news. We know you have equipped us to carry the good news to the ends of the Earth. Please forgive us when we fall short of your plan. We pray the Holy Spirit will open our eyes so we can share the gospel with those who have ears to hear. Amen.
Action... Read and marinate on Isaiah 61:1-2 every day and strive to live accordingly.