

Pursuing the Heart of God

The Heart of the Matter

Section 6

Psalm 51

1. _____ is key to pursuing the heart of God.
 - a. This is a Psalm of David after his sin with Bathsheba. All of Psalm 51 is David's plea for forgiveness and cleansing of his sin.
 - b. Psalm 51:16-17

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

 - i. Broken - crush, destroy, hurt,
 - ii. Contrite - to collapse
 - iii. It is interesting to me that David, in a time where sacrifices were the norm, says that God doesn't really desire a sacrifice, or he would give it. David understood that God was more worried with the heart than with empty actions.

- iv. David isn't saying that the sacrifice was unimportant. Just that he knows God doesn't want him to just go through the actions. He wants true repentance of the heart.
- v. We have looked at the characteristics of David's life that show what it means to be one who pursues the heart of God.

What follows the heart?

2. _____

a. Matthew 12:34

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

b. What is the abundance of your heart? What fills you? If we are full of the love and grace of God, it is going to come out. If we have filled ourselves with the word of God, it's going to come out.

c. If we are excited about something or if we find something that effects are lives, we talk about it. So if we aren't talking about Christ, Why?

3. _____

a. Romans 10:14-15

14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

b. We are all sent. Whether it is across the street, to work, or across the world we are bringing the good news.

c. Our feet follow our heart.

4. _____

a. Hebrews 10:25

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

b. Do we make it a priority to get together? With the COVID-19 this may change how we meet together but do we do what it takes to stay connected? Are we encouraging one another?

- c. Do we look for opportunities to gather/connect?

5. _____

- a. Hebrews 4:12

12For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- b. When God has our hearts the true intentions and motives of our hearts are revealed by the word of God.

- c. Why do we do the things that we do?

- d. Proverbs 21:2

A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.

- e. God knows our true motives.

6. _____

- a. Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- b. 1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it

up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

c. Paul is telling each person to give as God has prospered them.

d. 2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

e. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

f. We are to give generously.

7. _____

a. Matthew 22:37

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

b. Psalm 51:16-17

16You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

c. Our heart must be a part of our worship.

- d. God doesn't want us to just come together and go through the motions. He wants our broken and contrite hearts to come to him. When we sin, he wants us to come before him and with a broken and contrite heart to pour ourselves out to him asking for his forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

What is the difference between going through the motions of worship and truly worshiping from the heart?

Read James 3:1-12. How does James teaching on the tongue reveal more about our hearts and the words that we say?

How can we understand the true motives of our heart? What role does God's word play in revealing your motives?

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Communion with God

Section 7

Various Psalms

One of the greatest insights into the heart of David is by reading the Psalms that he wrote. Many of the Psalms that David wrote have him listed as the author in our Bibles. If your Bible does not have the authors of the Psalms listed, check into a good study Bible or the free You Version Bible app has the authors of many of the Psalms listed.

As you read through the Psalms that David penned you will quickly see that David knows his God. He doesn't just know about God but truly has a relationship with him. He shares his times of communion with God for us to read through these Psalms. Some are great songs of praise, while others show his despair. But one thing rings true, David trusts God.

Here are some of the themes you will find.

- _____ in God
- _____

- _____, _____, _____,

- A _____ out to God

- _____

- _____

- _____, _____

Discussion

Psalm 13