

WISDOM: Where The Heart Is

July 4, 2021 | Speaker: Blake Dunlevy, Elder

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

What did you picture when you read passages about "the heart" in the bible before this weeks message?

Biblical ways of speaking about the heart and it's function:

1. Emotions & Feelings

Proverbs 15:13 A joyful hear makes a cheerful face, but when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

Psalm 69:20 Disgrace has broken my heart, and I am so sick. And I waited for sympathy, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none.

What are the emotions and feelings that you most commonly experience in your heart?

2. Intellect & Thoughts

Proverbs 2:2 "Make your ear attentive to wisdom; incline your heart to understanding.

Luke 5:22 "But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, responded and said to them, "Why are you THINKING this was in your HEARTS?"

How does thinking about "the heart" being a place of thoughts change some of the verses that you are familiar with in the bible?

3. Decision Making & Choices

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Samuel 14:7

His armor bearer said to him, "Do everything that is in your HEART; turn yourself to it, and here I am with you according to your desire."

If an outsider were to look at some of your choices and decision making, what do you think they would conclude about what is in your heart?

Key Text for the Week Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

Isaiah 29:13-15
¹³ The Lord said:
Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me,
and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;
¹⁴ so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing.
The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.
¹⁵ Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the Lord, whose deeds are in the dark,

and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to the conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

Ezekiel 11:18-21

"They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord."

Genesis 6:5-6

"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled."

Genesis 8:20-21

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in His HEART: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human HEART is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

- 1. What are some things that have caused your heart to be divided?
- 2. What should it look like to guard your heart as you watch the news?
- 3. How can you guard your heart when on social media?
- 4. What do you think God might be drawing your heart to build as you enter the postpandemic stretch of life?

NOTES