

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

SERMON 13: JESUS FORMS THE HEART HE IS REQUIRING

Texts: Matthew 8-12; Luke 7-11

Prelude:

- The Big Picture (This Is Powerful)

Before Jesus ever teaches the parables...

He **demonstrates** every possible response to Him:

- Faith
- Doubt
- Offense
- Worship
- Rejection
- Pride
- Hunger
- Hardness
- **There are a series of 12 events that the bible describes happening from Jesus walking on water to when He starts with the parables.**

So What Story Are These Events Telling?

They are separating hearts.

They show:

- What receives the Kingdom
- What resists the Kingdom
- What starts well but falls away
- What never understands at all
- **These stories Lead Directly Into Matthew 13**

Making the parables make sense:

The Sower isn't new teaching— It's an explanation of everything they just witnessed.

- The centurion = **good soil**
- The crowd wanting signs = **rocky soil**
- The religious leaders = **hardened path**
- The distracted followers = **thorny soil**

I. Faith That Trusts Authority (Centurion)

⁸But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." (Mt 8:8-8)

The heart Jesus cultivates through the centurion's example is one oriented toward surrender to divine authority rather than the need for control or visible proof. The transformation begins with the centurion's understanding of authority. He recognized something that many around Jesus still could not see. As a man under authority himself, he understood how true authority works. He knew that authority is not proven by noise, emotion, or spectacle—it is proven by the power to speak and have reality obey. That is why he says:
"I also am a man under authority..."
The centurion understood chains of command. When a higher authority speaks, the lower authority responds. And this is what he discerned about Jesus: Jesus was not merely speaking for God—He was operating in the authority of God. When Jesus speaks, heaven speaks. When Jesus commands, creation obeys. When Jesus wills, sickness, demons, nature, and even death must submit. The centurion did not need to see Jesus physically come to his house. He did not need proof. He did not need touch. He did not need spectacle. He trusted the Word.

Resurrection Heart Begins with Surrendered Trust

- The centurion says: *"Just say the word..."*
- He understands authority without needing proof.

Human Heart:

- Needs signs, control, and certainty before trusting

II. Compassion That Interrupts Death (Widow's Son)

***'When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."
(Luke 7:13)***

Resurrection Heart Feels What God Feels; Jesus is moved with compassion and raises the dead son.

- This miracle reveals something fundamental about the nature of resurrection life—not as abstract power, but as feeling that compels action.

Christianity has shallowed faith so much that it limits Jesus' power to a formula for us to act, and we see the empathy and compassion burns deep with a Bridegroom for us.

- Compassion means to feel a deep love at the center of one's emotions, and it involves not merely sorrow for another's condition but a desire to help—stepping into their situation and doing whatever is possible to assist.

Do we really think that most people would want to do this. We have a society that makes us just want to go home and not have a care in the world. We have no time for your issues, I have enough of my own.

- The Hebrew understanding deepens this further. The word for compassion derives from "womb," reflecting how God feels toward his people as a mother feels toward her unborn child—with tender longing and willingness to die for protection, moving

him to respond to our cries for help. When Jesus encounters the widow, his compassion isn't a detached observation; it's visceral engagement with her pain that interrupts the funeral procession itself.

****This is when Resurrection life begins when your heart stops revolving around you !**

III. Offense at Jesus' Method (John the Baptist)

²Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" Mt 11: 2-19

This story about John the Baptist illustrates the collision between **what we anticipate God should do** and what **He actually does**. This tension reveals whether our faith rests on God Himself or on our blueprint for how He should operate.

John the Baptist did not expect the Jesus he encountered and mistrust took root in his confusion.

- Rather than offering verbal confirmation, Jesus pointed to visible evidence of kingdom compassion—healing the sick, raising the dead, preaching good news to the poor—demonstrating that He was fulfilling Isaiah's prophecies, though most expected ruling political power instead
- Jesus essentially told John: "I've blown your expectations, but according to Scripture, the Messiah comes first as a healer, not a conquering King. You'll have to be patient"

******* The critical difference between a "resurrected heart" and a "human heart" lies in the response to this gap.

The resurrected heart recognizes that refusing to take offense when God doesn't act according to expectations is the pathway to genuine trust. This is indeed death to expectation—not the death of hope, but the death of demanding that God conform to our timeline and methods.

****This is death to expectation**

IV. Love That Flows from Forgiveness (Sinful Woman)

³⁸and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. (Lk 7:38....)

Jesus says: ***"She loves much because she was forgiven much"***

The very parts of her body she used to sin, eyes of lust, lips to seduce are now surrendering. She is now giving her hair, tears, kisses, and costly perfume at Jesus's feet, she relinquished the shame and self-condemnation that had defined her existence, and through this act of total self-offering, she received complete forgiveness.

****This is death to pride**

V. Devotion Over Distraction (Women Who Follow)

....Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means. Luke 8:1-3

What emerges from these accounts is a portrait of discipleship that was radically different from the cultural expectations of that time.

In a world where women were often overlooked, diminished, or treated as secondary, Jesus did the opposite.

- He never dishonored women.
- He never exploited them.
- He never treated them as lesser.

Instead, He restored dignity, showed compassion, and welcomed them into the life and mission of the Kingdom.

And something remarkable stands out in the Gospels:

Women consistently respond to Jesus with faith, devotion, and surrender, while it is often men who resist, reject, challenge, or oppose Him.

That does not mean women were sinless—it means these accounts highlight something profound:

they often embodied the kind of heart Jesus was looking for.

A heart that:

- receives grace
- responds with love
- serves without needing status
- follows without demanding control

These women did not remain mere recipients of healing or compassion.

They were transformed.

What began as an encounter with Jesus became a complete reorientation of life.

Their priorities changed.

Their resources changed.

Their loyalties changed.

Their purpose changed.

They moved from asking:

“What can Jesus do for me?”

to living:

“How can my life now serve Him?”

****This is death to divided loyalty**

VI. Misidentifying Jesus (Beelzebub Accusation)

²²Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” ²⁴But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.” ²⁵And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. ²⁸But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. (Mt. 12: 22-30)

- The Pharisees' accusation against Jesus reveals a fundamental spiritual blindness rooted in resistance to God's work. They clearly misidentify Jesus' power and accuse Him of using demonic power just because they were in opposition to Him.
- Jesus responded by exposing the logical absurdity of their position: if Satan were casting out Satan, his kingdom would be divided against itself and unable to stand.

But the deeper issue transcended logic. Words reveal what is hidden in the heart, and what dwells there determines character, conduct, and destiny.

***Please take note: Your words do reveal your character, conduct and your destiny.

- The Pharisees' accusation exposed something darker—they were making a statement about God's nature itself, essentially claiming God would permit suffering on the Sabbath while Satan would provide healing, inverting the truth about both God and the devil.
- This explains the gravity of the unforgivable sin. Jesus acknowledged that honest disagreement about his identity—even direct opposition—could be forgiven, since the resurrection would vindicate his claims. However, to possess full awareness that Jesus embodies God's will and that the Spirit energizes his every action, yet deliberately reject him, constitutes the one unforgivable sin

Before we get to the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit lets recap this story.

Resurrected Heart:

- Discerns God rightly

Human Heart:

- Twists truth to protect its own position

This is **death to spiritual blindness