



Sermon Discussion Guide

05.29.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Jeremiah 23:31-32

Key Scriptures:

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

- Psalm 51:6

As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

- Proverbs 27:19

Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the Lord, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the Lord.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the Lord, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the Lord.

- Jeremiah 23:31-32

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face..."

- Matthew 6:16-17

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- Luke 6:45

Message Highlights:

- Division grows through the nourishment of lies and reckless living—in the secret places!
- Navigating lies and recklessness is difficult; humility before God is important so we can keep maturing in what we *do* know about handling difficult situations.
- God desires to cultivate within us a divine heart amidst a world of divisive dreams.
- Fasting reminds us of our and others' limitations, and the temptations that work against the secret heart.
- Knowing who we are in light of who God is provides a high level of clarity and transparency within ourselves.

Conversation Starter:

Think about a time that you were knocked off of your high horse. How did it feel? What did you learn about humility through the process?

Discuss the Message:

1. Describe the discipline and necessity of fasting in your own words, using Matthew 6:16-17 to guide your answer.
 - a) How can fasting aid us in caring well for the sacred space of the secret heart?
 - b) If you were to choose something to fast from, other than food, what would it be? How would fasting from that activity/habit help you magnify your dependence on God?
 - c) What steps can you take to approach temptation with God's word and wisdom rather than your own thoughts, just as Jesus did while fasting in Matthew 4?
2. How does God speak against lies and reckless living in Jeremiah 23:31-32? How did lies or half-truths affect the Israelites, according to verse 32?
 - a) What are some ways that lies and reckless living have negatively impacted your secret heart, or the hearts of those around you?
 - b) How does a relationship with God help us to cultivate a pure heart in a divided world?
3. What does the water analogy in Proverbs 27:19 mean to you?
 - a) What does it mean to know who you are *in light of* God and how does that bring clarity to your life?
 - b) Just as water's transparency is key to its clarity, our own transparency is key to finding clarity. Describe what this transparency might look like in the different relationships you find yourself in (spouse, siblings, mentor relationships, etc).
 - c) What are we gaining when we choose to walk the more challenging route of transparency with God and others and what may cause you to be hesitant in leaving behind ways of secrecy?

Pray:

Father in Heaven, thank you for teaching us wisdom, for shining your light and truth in the secret places of our hearts. We recognize our limits, and we desire to embrace humility just as your Son, Jesus, did. Help us, by your Spirit, to delight in truth, as you delight in truth. Cultivate within us your divine heart, protect us from the divisive work within us and around us. Amen.