
Only Jesus

Part 4 - Surrendered Heart

Throughout His life Jesus modelled for us the real power of a surrendered heart. From the desert to the garden of Gethsemane, all the way to the cross, Jesus aligned His heart with His Father's will.

In fact, God has a lot to say about our hearts throughout Scripture. Our actions reveal our heart, so if we want to live in a way that best reflects and represents Christ Jesus, we best start with our hearts.

Proverbs 27:19

Jesus teaches about the 'Fruit' in people's lives

Jesus reminds us that our true underlying beliefs, attitudes and motivations are held in our hearts. That whatever is in our hearts will become visible as 'fruit' in our lives through our speech and our behaviour.

Jesus continually declared and demonstrated that He was a heart reader!

- + In **Luke 6: 43, 45** Jesus highlighted that 'No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.' Further, that 'A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.'
- + In **Matthew 15:16-20**, Jesus emphasised to His disciples, that while our outward appearance is important, what is in our hearts is even more important.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that as Christians, we are made brand-new on the inside – through the righteousness found in Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. We are a new creation living a new life, with a new perspective, in a new body, empowered by a new Spirit, under a new Master. Paul reiterates Jesus' teaching, that our lives should look different!

We must guard our heart!

In Proverbs 4 we see a beautiful Proverb written by Solomon, sharing how his father David taught him to seek wisdom. The focus of this advice centres around asking God for a discerning heart, above all else!

Proverbs 4:23 tells us that we are to pay attention to the welfare of our inner being, to guard our heart, for from there flows the wellspring of life, from there determines the course of our life!

Throughout the Proverb, Solomon reminds us that if you want wisdom, you must intentionally go after it, no matter how hard the process might become. Further, that it is not a once-in-a-lifetime step but a daily process of choosing to pursue righteousness above all else.

But when you read this verse in the context of Proverbs 4, we see that there is more to this!

To guard our heart is really saying guard Godly instruction within our heart, so you don't forget or ignore it, especially when our minds are constantly bombarded with the temptations and influence of World, and with the desires of the flesh that war against the things of God.

Psalm 119:9-11 – Hide His Word deep in your heart and allow His truth to go to work in your life

To guard our heart means we will intentionally '*nourish the new nature*' and '*starve the old nature*' so that our lives will demonstrate righteousness and reflect Christ in ever increasing measure.

There is no hope before we were born again, before we believed that Jesus Christ died to forgive us from our sins.

Romans 10:13 reminds us that as we call on the name of Jesus, and repent, His Holy Spirit comes to us to empower us from that moment on, to live a new life!

Where's your heart at, when Jesus shows up?

Have you ever felt like everything you had relied on was removed, out of reach?

Have you ever felt like the horizon of HOPE was so far away it was out of sight?

John 6:16-20

- + We FEAR what rages around us...
- + We FEAR what rages against us...
- + We FEAR what rages within us...
- + But, there can be BREAKTHROUGH in an instant!

When Jesus shows up in the midst of your storm, how does he find the state of your heart?

Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

No matter what is happening in your life right now, Jesus is right there, awaiting your invitation into not only the situation, but into your boat, into your entire life.

God enters the storms we face in our lives, pursues us, to show us His strength, His love and His supernatural power at work.