

“Having A Heart for God”

Open: [Spend no more than 10 minutes on the introduction. Leave plenty of time for the main portion of the outline]

- David – I Sam. 13:14 *“But now thy [Saul] kingdom shall not continue: **the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart**, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”*
 - We find a man who was not perfect; but was used greatly by God because his heart was tender.
 - He committed adultery and committed murder, yet God call’s him a man after is own heart?
 - We find that David is a man after God’s heart, because he sought with his heart to fulfill what was in the heart of God. David, more than anything in life, desired to do everything God wanted him to do.
 - He knew his place – Whether he was a shepherd or whether he was a king; David did his best to never overstep.
 - He knew his purpose – Whether he was to kill the giant or he was to watch the sheep; David did his best to do what his job was for that day.
 - He knew his person – Whether he was discouraged or whether he had done wrong; David maintained an honest view of himself and was constantly seeking for ways to improve.
- Solomon – I Kings 11:4 *“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, **that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God**, as was the heart of David his father.”*
 - We find a man who was not perfect, who was very wise; but by the end of his life did evil in the sight of God, because he did not protect his heart.
 - Solomon allowed his lust for woman to replace his love for God. He desired to fulfill fleshly desires more than he desired to fulfill God’s will for his life. I Kings. 11:3 *“And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.”*
 - We find a man who grew away from God; because he developed an appetite for the fleshly things of this world and not for the things that God wanted him to enjoy.
 - He forsook his humble beginnings and his realization of his need for God. II Chron. 1:10-12
 - He was more focused on building a great building for God, than being a great man of God. II Chron. 2:1, 5 *“And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom. [5] And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.”*
 - He failed to realize that in his passion to do something monetarily for God he failed spiritually to have passion for God. II Chron. 6:1-2 *“Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. [2] But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever.”*
 - “He was more focused on the appearance of God’s house and the contents of God’s house; than he was seeking to please, with his life, the God of that house.”

- **Rehoboam** – “*He did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.*” **II Chron. 12:14** “*And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*”
 - We find a man who did nothing for God, and in turn did much to hurt the work and testimony of God’s people because he did not care about what God wanted for his life.
 - Rehoboam lived his life with a carnal view of life (philosophy). He only cared about himself and what he wanted; he did not take the time to ask God what was best for his life.
 - We find a man who’s potential is wasted, because he thought he could do better with his life than what God wanted him to do.
 - He neglected wise counsel, and listened to his peers. **I Kings 12:6-8**
 - He abused the power of his leadership. **I Kings 12:13-14**
 - He cared only for himself, and gave no thought to how his actions might affect the following generation. **II Chron. 12:9** “*So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king’s house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.*”

Tran: *What type of Christian will you be?*

- One, who like David, seeks to be the best for God you can be despite your imperfections.
- One, who like Solomon, starts out seeking to please God; but loses your heart to the world because you have developed improper appetites.
- One, who like Rehoboam, does not reach their full potential because you are only focused on what you want.

I. A Heart to obey God.

- A. Abraham. – **Gen. 22:1-2** “*And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. [2] And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*”
 1. Abraham chose early in life he would obey no matter what and regardless of what he thought it may cost him.
 2. Abraham would have never seen the blessings of God without obeying God. You need to decide, like Abraham, that no matter how hard it seems; you are going to obey God.
- B. Esther. – **Esther 2:10** “*Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it*”
 1. Esther chose to obey, even when she was chosen to be set up as queen. Because she obeyed God used her to spare many lives.
 2. Esther did not become proud during a time of promotion, she listened to wise counsel and obeyed. Just because you get older does not mean you have the right to do what you want; it means you have more responsibility to do what is right.

II. A Heart to answer the call of God.

- A. Samuel. – **I Sam. 3:10** *“And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”*
1. Samuel was already serving God, but when God called on him to do more, he answered the call with a servant’s heart.
 2. Don’t wait until you are older to start doing something for God, begin now. Work hard at what seems little to you and allow God to call you to do more when He is ready.
- B. Isaiah. – **Isaiah 6:8** *“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”*
1. God needed someone to take a very difficult message to a very carnal people, Isaiah answered the call and asked God to be the one He would use.
 2. God is looking for individuals, who will be willing to deliver the message of salvation and warn of hell to family members, friends, and other individuals they meet.

III. A Heart to take a stand.

- A. 3 Hebrew Boys. – **Daniel 3:28** *“Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.”*
1. In a land far from home, these 3 Hebrew boys chose to take a difficult stand the right way. They determined to not give in to the world’s way.
 2. You need to determine today, that no matter how difficult it seems, you will take a stand the right way with the right spirit and not bow or give in to the carnal life style of the world.
- B. David. – **I Sam. 17:29** *“And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?”*
1. Despite all the negativity and criticism David chose to be the one who would yield to God and be willing to go and do what no one else would.
 2. You need to promise God at a young age that you will not allow anything to stop you from standing up for truth. **I Tim. 4:12** *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*

IV. A Heart that is tender.

- A. Jesus. – **Mark 6:34** *“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.”*
1. Jesus did not allow His possession to limit his compassion for the people came in contact with.
 2. You should never allow the fact, that you are a Christian, keep you from seeing and assisting with the needs of others, who have not been taught like you have.
- B. Josiah – **II Kings 22:19** *“Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.”*
1. Josiah, at the age of 8, shows us the importance and value of a young generation who are tenderhearted to the teaching of God’s Word.
 2. At a young age you need to develop a habit of responding to the truths you hear in God’s Word. Josiah did not allow the spiritual hardness of an older generation to keep him from making a spiritual decision.

Close:

- The condition of your heart has a lot to do with how sensitive you are to what God wants for your life.
Hosea 10:12 *“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”*
- We have looked at many Bible examples, showing us the importance of making sure our hearts are tender to the things of God.
- The condition of your heart is up to you. Will you choose to have a soft heart, and be blessed; or will you choose to let your heart grow cold, and be punished?

Prov. 4:23

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”