



Teachings and Parables of Jesus Pt 6: A Heart Check

October 6, 2019

TEXT: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

- Last week, we began our look at the *Parable of the Sower* “from the middle,” looking first at the “purpose of parables.” (Matt 13:10-17)
- We found out a few things:
 1. A parable is a **figurative** way (using real life examples) our LORD chose to illustrate and teach spiritual truth.
 2. At some point, and at least for a while, our LORD shifted His teaching style, from plain teaching (ex. the Sermon on the Mount) to **stories**. This was so noticeable that His disciples asked, LORD, “Why speakest thou unto them in parables?” (v10)
 3. The reason our LORD did this was the condition of the **hearts** of His hearers! From the NLT:

Matthew 13:11-15 (NLT) *He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. **12** To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. **13** That is why I use these parables, For they look, but they don’t really see. They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand. **14** This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, ‘When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. **15** For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’”*

4. There was nothing wrong with the seed (the Word) and nothing wrong with the Sower (Christ). The problem was the soil (heart of the hearer).
5. Although our LORD loved them and continued to teach them, His use of parables was a type of reprimand. The purpose of those parables, at least during that phase of our LORD’s ministry, was to bring a subtle form of judgment upon unbelieving Israel. Sadly, their HARD **HEARTS**, hindered their **HEALING!**

A HEART CHECK

- The Parable of the Sower is about the heart and describes four types: the **wayside** heart (v19), the **stony** heart (v20), the **thorny** heart (v22), and the **good** ground heart (v23).
- So today, I thought it would be good for our souls to simply define and survey what Scripture says about the heart, and walk through the parable next week, LORD willing.

- So what is the heart?
 1. “A muscle in your chest that pumps blood!” – Voddie Baucham
 2. In my Bible software, a search for “heart” produced 833 hits!
 3. Vine’s Dictionary of the Bible: From the Greek word *Kardia*. “The word came to stand for man’s entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements.
 4. The Webster 1828 gives a 15-part definition to include “the seat of affections and passions,” “the seat of understanding,” and “the seat of the will.”
 5. The heart as used in Scripture points to “the seat of man’s emotions; his feelings and thoughts; his soul.”
- In summary, the heart is the **core** of our being, the inner man. By way of analogy, if our soul or spirit is the car, the heart is the **engine**.

As we read through the Scriptures, jot down a few heart-areas you’d like the LORD to change in you.

A SURVEY: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT “THE HEART.”

IT IS WICKED AND IS THE PLACE OF TRUE DEFILEMENT

- **Genesis 6:5-6 (KJV)** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*
- **Jeremiah 17:9-10 (KJV)** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*
- **Matthew 15:17-20 (KJV)** *Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

IT CAN BE DECEIVED

- **Deuteronomy 11:16-17 (KJV)** *Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; 17 And then the LORD’S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.*

IT IS PRONE TO PRIDE

- **Proverbs 16:5 (KJV)** *Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*

GOD KNOWS ITS SECRETS

- **Psalms 44:21 (KJV)** *Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.*
- **Romans 8:27 (KJV)** *And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

GOD WILL TEST IT

- **Proverbs 17:3 (KJV)** *The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.*
- **1 Thessalonians 2:4 (KJV)** *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

THE WORD DISCERNES ITS INTENTIONS

- **Hebrews 4:12 (KJV)** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

IT MUST BE GUARDED

- **Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*
- **Philippians 4:7 (KJV)** *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

IT'S WHERE THE WORD SHOULD DWELL

- **Hebrews 10:16 (KJV)** *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

IT IS THE PLACE OF SEEKING AND DESIRE

- **Deuteronomy 4:29 (KJV)** *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*
- **Psalms 37:3-5 (KJV)** *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

IT IS ALSO THE PLACE OF TRUST

- **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)** *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

IT IS WHERE WE ARE TO LOVE GOD!

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (KJV)** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: **5** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- **Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (KJV)** And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, **13** To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?
- **Matthew 22:37-38 (KJV)** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **38** This is the first and great commandment.

IT NEEDS TO BE CONSISTENTLY STRENGTHENED AND COMFORTED

- **Psalms 27:11-14 (KJV)** Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. **12** Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. **13** I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. **14** Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
- **Psalms 31:23-24 (KJV)** O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. **24** Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 (KJV)** Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. **16** Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, **17** Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

IT IS THE TRUE PLACE OF PRAISE

- **Colossians 3:16-17 (KJV)** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

GOD LOVES WHEN IT IS BROKEN...FOR HIM

- **Psalms 51:17 (KJV)** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

WE NEED A NEW ONE; ONE THAT BELIEVES!

- **Psalms 51:6-10 (KJV)** Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. **7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. **9** Hide thy face

from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

- **Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

LORD...

Change our hearts! Cleanse them. Renew them. Revive them. Restore them. Help them to burn for Thee! Make them yearn for truth and be enriched in Thy love!

Change my heart oh God, make it ever true; change my heart oh God, may I be like You!

What in your heart needs to change?
