

**Introduction:**

- Last weeks topic: Your heart defines you.
  - Whatever fills your heart the most is what comes out of you. What is in your heart, God sees. And He knows we define ourselves by that.
  - What is in your heart comes out and what comes out is how others define us.
- Jesus is concerned about what we are producing. So he says make a tree good and good will come out of it. Make a heart good and good will come out of it.
- The Bible has so much to say about the heart and how the heart affects the whole of our lives.
- **“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”** (Matthew 12:34, ESV) Spoke to Pharisees who are accusing Jesus of casting out devils because he is one.
- **“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, ESV) Taught in the Sermon on the mount.
- If the heart defines us then the question arises, “What is in your heart?”

**I. The Place Of The Heart**A. Thoughts about the heart.

1. If the heart is good you can expect to see: wisdom, justice, and a firm foundation in life. **“The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.”** (Psalm 37:30-31, ESV) In this scripture the heart is good because it is righteous and filled with the Word of God.
2. When a person’s heart is filled with the Word of God his heart will be inclined to do the will of God. **“I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”** (Psalm 40:8, ESV)
3. The heart that is applied to the truth of God (His word, statutes, precepts) will be pleasant. **“*Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge, for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.*”** (Proverbs 22:17-18, ESV)

B. The Importance of the heart. As we said last week the heart is main place where all transactions occur (good and bad). IE. Cardia - the main street of the city in Roman world. The heart is the core of our very being.

1. IE. In the natural, our physical hearts pump life into our entire body. Life is in the blood. The blood carries oxygen, food and minerals that our bodies need in order to become strong. It carries white blood cells through our bodies to fight diseases.
  - a) When the heart becomes weak the body is weakened.
  - b) When the heart experiences blockages the body experiences lifelessness.

- c) When the heart stops beating the body stops functioning.
  - d) But, when the heart is strong it pumps out the treasure that has been stored in it and causes us to live. But if you fill it with junk food, smoke, sugar you slowly begin to kill it.
2. The heart – is the core of our being. Healthy hearts make for healthy people. When healthy, the heart fills the body with O<sub>2</sub>, gets rid of carbon dioxide and waste, carries food to the cells. It literally pumps life into us.
- C. There is a battle that is taking place for the heart. Whoever or whatever owns the heart will determine who we are and how we relate to others. Think about this passage of scripture for a moment:
- 1. *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...”* (Proverbs 23:7, NKJV) If this is true, and it is, believe me when I say, “Satan wants to own your treasure house.” What is in the heart defines us.
  - 2. This battle of the heart is being fought in the mind. This is why the apostle Paul tells us to put off the old man put on the new; to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
  - 3. The mind is the control station/filter that determines what goes into and out of the heart.
- D. When we are born again we are given a new and living heart. Ezk 36:26
- 1. *“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”* (Ezekiel 36:26, ESV)
  - 2. *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”* (Psalm 51:10, ESV)
  - 3. *“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* (Romans 10:10, NKJV)
  - 4. In Christ we are made alive! 1 Cor 15:22; Eph 2:1,5; Col 2:13.
  - 5. This new heart has a new owner and it desires the things of life! And Jesus desires that we fill this new heart with heavenly treasure!

## II. The Place Of The Treasure

- A. The place of the heart is the place of our treasury.
- 1. Treasure is what is valuable to us. What is valuable we deposit or we store it away for safe keeping.
  - 2. Jesus said, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Luke 12:34, ESV) Passion translation: *“Where you deposit your treasure, that is where your thoughts will turn to—and your heart will long to be there also.”* (Luke 12:34, TPT)
- B. The heart is the treasury room of our lives but the mind determines what we are going to put into it. It must be renewed! *“For those who live according to the flesh set their*

*minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."* (Romans 8:5-8, ESV) Our minds must be set on God.

- C. Do you believe that God has a heart? How many think His heart is good? Yes, it is good, very good. And in 1 Sam13:14 it is said of David that he was known as a man after God's own heart. It was set on things of the Spirit. David wanted to have a heart like God's! He was keen to store up in his own heart what he discovered in God's heart.
1. David's life is a reflection of point #1.
  2. The heart that is alive is a heart that will be growing.

### III. The Place Of Growth

- A. The heart can grow in Christ/goodness or it can grow in evil. We determine what our hearts will grow in by what we put into it. So our thoughts must be directed towards Him.
1. *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."* (Proverbs 4:23, ESV) Watch what is going into your heart.
- B. According to Luke 6:45 the good person has stored up good treasures in his heart.
1. He is making valuable deposits of the Word. Heavenly deposits; that which has come from the mouth of God.
  2. David in Ps 119:11 says that a young man can keep his way pure by hiding God's word in his heart. The word becomes his treasure.
  3. Meditation is required to make deposits. Memorization is required so that you walk with the Word in you and upon your lips. Joshua 1:7-9 (Meditate on word=prosperous and successful).
- C. Receive the Word. Jn 6:63 It is Spirit and it is life. *"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."* (Matthew 13:23, ESV)
1. hears
  2. receives/understands
  3. bears fruit
- D. Abide in Christ
1. Abiding *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5, ESV)

2. Ps 1:1-ff make good deposits into your heart. Delight in the word. Stay planted – *“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”* (Psalm 1:3, ESV)
- E. Stay connected in worship – *“Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel!”* (Psalm 22:3, ESV) God inhabits the praise of Israel.
- F. Seek first the Kingdom.
  1. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33, ESV)
  2. *“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”* (1 Chronicles 16:11, ESV)
  3. Seek the Lord continually...*“so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”* (Isaiah 55:11, ESV)

**Conclusion:**

- Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Let us fill our mouths with His treasure!
- The place of the heart, the place of treasure, the place of growth. That is what we want...to be growing in Him.