

Discussion Guide

11/17/2024

It Starts in the Heart

Attitudes of the Heart

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Main Idea

The state of our hearts determines how we respond to life's challenges and opportunities. Whether we choose joy and forgiveness, or offense and anger, the *key is to decide how we will react before we encounter these situations*. Our hearts must be trained to align with the Word of God, and we must make premeditated choices about the type of person we want to be. Like the characters in the story of the Good Samaritan—the priest, Levite, Samaritan, and teacher of the law—the attitudes of the heart reveal our true nature. These attitudes, whether of arrogance, woundedness, or willingness, shape how we engage with others and reflect Christ's character. By guarding and cultivating the right attitudes, we position ourselves for freedom and growth, choosing to live with humility, resilience, and a heart surrendered to God's grace.

Above all else, Guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23

Anchor Passage

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

The KEY is that you have to decide your response beforehand. You have to DECIDE the person you're going to be before you stumble upon the person in need.

Arrogant Heart - Die to arrogance every day.

Philippians 2:3-5

Wounded Heart - You can live like a victim or live like a survivor.
1 Corinthians 15:57

Willing Heart - comes from a wholly surrendered =heart.
Hebrews 4:16

To transform the condition of our hearts, we must address the underlying attitudes that shape them and choose to align our hearts with God's truth.

1. **Start With Your Priorities.**

Read Luke 16:15, Ephesians 5:1-2.

What really matters? What do you invest in? What do you submit before the Lord?

2. **Remove Divisions.**

It's hard to be divided when you are fully invested.
Read Luke 10:27.

What are some ways we can fully invest our hearts, minds, and strength in loving both God and our neighbors, and how can this help remove divisions within our relationships?

3. **Ask God to Remove and Repair What You Can't See.**

Life is an opportunity for great joy and great favor.

Read Ezekiel 36:26

What are some areas of your heart that you might not fully see or understand, and how can you invite God to remove or repair those areas so that you can experience greater freedom and joy?

SUMMARY

Like the characters in the story of the Good Samaritan—the priest, Levite, Samaritan, and teacher of the law—the attitudes of the heart reveal our true nature. These attitudes, whether of arrogance, woundedness, or willingness, shape how we engage with others and reflect Christ's character. By guarding and cultivating the right attitudes, we position ourselves for freedom and growth, choosing to live with humility, resilience, and a heart surrendered to God's grace.

CALL TO ACTION

1. **Prioritize God's Heart:** Regularly examine what truly matters in your life, invest in what aligns with God's will, and submit your priorities to Him. (Luke 16:15, Ephesians 5:1-2)
2. **Remove Divisions:** Commit to loving God with your whole heart, soul, strength, and mind, and extend that same love to others, fully invested and united. (Luke 10:27)
3. **Invite God to Transform Your Heart:** Ask God to remove and repair any hidden areas of your heart that hinder you from fully living in His love, trusting Him to replace your heart of stone with a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

COMING UP

Join us in reaching our city with Hope City's annual [Hope for Christmas](#) project!

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Thanksgiving Recipe Exchange

Food is a central aspect of any Thanksgiving gathering, so why not exchange favorite recipes? Have each person bring a printed copy of their favorite Thanksgiving dish recipe and share stories or memories associated with it. This activity allows guests to make connections through their shared love of food and discover new culinary delights to try. You might come across a recipe for the most mouthwatering pumpkin pie or a unique twist on traditional stuffing.

PS - You will need to give everyone some advance notice for this...and probably a reminder or two!