

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

8 *Shepherding A Heart*

Adapted from: Dr. Tedd Trip

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Shepherding a Heart

Session Nine

~♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦ ~

Adapted from “Shepherding a Child’s Heart”
by David and Tedd Tripp

Key Verse:

*“Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it
flow all the issues of life.”*

Proverbs 4:23

Objective: Provides insight into the life-changing power that will direct you in knowing and following God. To take basic truth of scripture and help you build goals that lead you in knowing Christ from the heart-your heart first, then others.

This lesson is going to help you (with the help of the Holy Spirit and God’s Word), to see where issues in your life come from, and then what to do when you see those issues. Then, as you learn to tend to your own heart, you will be able to Shepherd your children’s hearts and others’ hearts also.

I. Shepherding A Heart

A. Where Behavior comes from

- (a) Behavior flows from the _____.
- (b) What you _____ and _____ comes from your heart.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23

The heart is connected with behavior. Whatever is in the heart ends up showing up in what you **SAY** and **DO!**

The **heart** is important to God. Man is impressed by what he sees on the _____ God, however looks on the _____.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The lord does not look at the things men look at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

God is **NOT** impressed with the outward appearances of men. It is the world that notices things like height or physical appearance.

God is the _____ He knows what the heart is really like.

Scriptures on God knowing the heart:

Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Psalms 44:21

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

Matthew 9:4

These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Matthew 15:8

He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

Luke 16:15

"Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt"

Luke 24:38

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalms 19:14

"And when a prayer of plea is made by any of your people Israel, each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands towards this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act: deal with each man according to all he does, (since you know his heart, for you alone know the hearts of all men.)"

I Kings 8:38-39

B. Christ's Focus is on the Heart

1. It is the _____ of the _____ that make you clean or unclean.

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'

Mark 7:14-15

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.”

Matthew 5:21-22

2. Christ teaches that where your treasure is that is where your heart is.

Out of the _____ the heart speaks. Actions mirror our heart. (say/do)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

You cannot deny the connection of the heart to your action. The heart issue has to be confronted for change to take place. If you continually address just the behavior, the heart stays the same. Transformation has to take place, which comes by reading God's Word, which will produce the faith for change.

EXAMPLE: “I am sorry for what I said, I was just tired.”

This point is made forcefully in Matthew 15:8 God wants honor that is not only from the lips, but from the heart.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

Saying good things without a good heart does not honor God. As we read before, It is what comes out of a man's heart that makes him clean or unclean. Remember scripture says:

“What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean.”

Matthew 15:11

So, in other words, Good trees produce good fruit, bad trees produce bad fruit. So it is the same with the heart.

EXAMPLE: If you have a tree that is rotten, and is not healthy, it will produce bad fruit. It will not produce good fruit. You cannot save that tree or make it healthy by hanging ripe red apples from it. The tree is still rotten inside. The fruit on the outside may look yummy but you would have to keep attaching new fresh beautiful apples to it to make it stay beautiful in appearance. Eventually, that would get frustrating and you would give up. The heart is the same...you cannot keep just fixing your outer appearance. Eventually what is truly inside your heart will come out. Fixing your behavior does not fix the heart issue that it comes from. So there is NO true change, just covering up what is really there!

C. The Gospel must be central in your heart to produce change

1. For change to take place within our hearts, we must have a heart that habitually says:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23-24

You want this plea to resonate in your heart! Psalm 139 is a reflection of what needs to be going on in our own heart.

You have to long for that _____ that can only come from Christ.

Cry out as David did in Psalm 51:10:

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10

Only the renewed heart can put in place what is needed to live a life that pleases God! This must be your goal.

When you cry out to the Lord to search you heart and create a pure heart, the heart issues will be hi-lited or “discerned by the Holy Spirit.

D. Discern heart issues

- 1) When issues or debates arise in your life, don’t focus primarily on the circumstance you are in. Rather, focus on the heart issues that produced the debate in the first place.
- 2) Prayerfully examine your heart, God will show you what the heart issue is that is producing the outward behavior you see.
- 3) To discern heart issue we must use Biblical categories to describe the behavior you see.

E. Use scriptures that address the heart issues at hand

To do this effectively, you must know the scriptures yourself. Therefore, you want to develop a mental concordance that you're continually updating so that you can apply God's Word to the life situations that you face.

EXAMPLES:

REMEMBER! As you have learned, the heart is the *central issue*. (Proverbs 4:23 & Luke 6)

Look at these examples, keeping in mind the statement above (heart is central issue): When dealing with revenge, love of self, pride, fear, or desires, these are scriptures that will contrast how you feel, and show you God's will.

Romans 12:17 (REVENGE) This scripture teaches to not take revenge. It is God's to avenge, HE will re-pay.

Philippians 2:1-4 (LOVE OF SELF)-if this is a problem, this scripture teaches how to walk in love and not selfishness.

Philippians 2:3-4 (PRIDE)-if pride is a problem, this scripture teaches how to do things motivated by love.

1 John 4:18 (FEAR)-If fear is a problem, this scripture addresses the heart issue of fear.

Hebrews 13:5 (FEAR)-Deals with the fear of lack, not having riches.

James 4:1 (DESIRES)-When quarrels and fights arise, the scripture tells you where they come from.

F. Our one true Biblical Objective

1. The overarching Biblical objective is for man to be consumed with glorifying God and enjoying Him forever. This is supported by texts such as:

a) I Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

b) Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- 2.) We must learn to function in a world that has _____ the knowledge of God.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

- 3) Cultural influence can drive us to take delight in material things.

But, the Word says:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

I John 2:17

This focus on delighting in material things as opposed to delighting in KNOWING God is an example of being taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies. (Colossians 2:8)

- 4) We also need to learn to redeem the time.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Ephesians 5:15

We need to be eternally minded. We are but a breath on this earth. So, we need to be good stewards of our time here, and do God’s will.

- 5) What do you desire more than anything on earth? Your desire has to be to worship God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the

strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73: 25-26

- 6) Only in God's light will you see light.
We have to desire to see truth.

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the great deep. O LORD, You preserve both man and beast. How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men Find refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:5

- 7) We have to thirst for God

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory

Psalm 63:1-2

The chief end of man, is to “glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” ~Dr. Tedd Tripp~

Discussion:

1. Where does all behavior come from?
2. How does our behavior change? What brings about the change?
3. What impresses God according to this session?
4. What are some things we have to set as goals to be able to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever? (From lesson)

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 & 2 Peter

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool and a Daily Journal as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

