

Title: Heart Trouble

Text: Matthew 12:34-~~37~~; 15; 17-19

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the 12th Chapter of the book of Matthew. OUR TOPICS: HEART TROUBLE.

I think that every person in this room is interested in heart trouble. It seems that it has become quite popular in the medical field. And many folks are talking about having heart problems. It seems that only a few years ago, only the very old might die of a heart attack. Yet, today, anyone can have a heart attack. Especially as the pressures of life become so great that many of us have heart trouble.

But, there is a bigger problem facing us then just physical heart trouble. We, also, have the problem of spiritual heart trouble. And the Bible has much to say about the heart. Let's look at it.

Matthew chapter 12 beginning with verse 34... (Read Vs. 34-~~37~~)

(PRAYER)

15:17-19

It was not to my surprise as I was studying the Word of God to discover that the word "heart" is used over 900 times in the Bible. The word "heart" appears 164 times in the N.T. And it is never used of the physical organ in any context of the N.T.

In describing a person, the Bible refers to a person in I Thess 5:23, as body, soul, and spirit. The heart is never identified with the body. BUT, it is often represented in the Bible as being in control of that body. For example in Matthew 12:34, our text, we read, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart."

The mouth is being controlled by the heart. And, also, in Chapter 15 verses <sup>17</sup> and 19, we have the same idea. (Read Vs. <sup>17</sup> 18-19)

Here we learn that the heart even controls the outward acts of sin of the human body. "For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

In other words, the heart controls the body. Even though in the Word of God it is never identified as being body.

Also, the heart is often associated with the mind. In Philippians 4:7 Paul says, "Let the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." And the heart is often used as though it is the mind with the ability to think and perceive and to understand.

Jesus said, "Why do you perceive in your heart." On another occasion he said, "Why do you not understand with your heart." So, the mind is often associated with the heart.

The heart is, also, associated with one's memory. In Luke 2:51 we learn that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." She kept them there. And they were a constant memory to her of the early days of the life of J.C.

Where as the mind can accumulate facts and knowledge, the heart is spoken of in the Bible as the only instrument whereby we can understand and perceive the facts that we have learned in our minds.

Jesus indicates in Matthew 15:7-8 that it is possible for a person by his words and by his actions to appear to honor God. Yet, his heart be far from it.

Perhaps we shall never fully understand the <sup>Biblical</sup> meaning of the word "Heart" until we get to heaven. <sup>But,</sup> The Bible has some very pointed things to say about the heart and I want to share them with you. I hope it will lead us to

a measure of understanding. And hopefully in the case of many of us, some positive action will come from our life. *Then I want to show the solution to the heart problem*

*OK. what does The God say about The Heart ?*

*ant*

11 ) First of all, the Bible teaches that the heart is deceitfulness.

The Bible clearly teaches that man cannot know himself. Socrates said: "Know thyself." The greatest philosophy that he could come up with was to "know yourself." But, the Bible says that you cannot know ~~yourself~~ <sup>yourself</sup>. Only God can know us. And one day we shall know as we have been known. But, right now we cannot know ourselves. And the truth of the matter is that the heart is deceitful. And we will often say to people what we are. When we really aren't that at all. Because the heart is deceitful. Many times we are sincere in trying to describe ourselves to other people. But we are deceitful. We don't know ourselves.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "the heart is more deceitful than all else." In other words there is nothing as deceitful as the heart. And it says that it is desperately sick; who can understand it? And then Vs 10 says, "I, the Lord, searches the heart."

You see, only the Lord can know the heart. And you can not even know your own heart. The heart is deceitful above all things; and desperately sick."

In I Samuel 16:7 we find a tremendous principle about the heart. That man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at our heart. He knows what we think and perceive and understand ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> feel. And man cannot know that. In fact, you cannot even know that about yourself. But, God knows the heart. Thus, we cannot hide from God in anyway, shape, or form. He knows what you think and feel. And ~~you~~ <sup>we</sup> cannot hide from Him.

In Romans 8:27 Paul says, "he who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is."

In I Corinthians 4:5 Paul says that the day is coming when the Lord will disclose the motives of men's hearts." Whatever the heart has thought, been, or felt, one day God will reveal it. He will make it open. And all motives will be on review. <sup>and judged</sup> So, our heart is deceitful.

(2 ) There is a second principle about the heart that I have learned from the Word. And that is the darkness of the heart.

And I draw your attention, first of all, to the book of Romans. Tuna, please, to Romans chapter 1. ~~There will also be at another passage in Ephesians 4.....~~Romans chapter 1 and beginning at Vs **18**. Here is one of <sup>These</sup> greatest passage in the Bible. Here we learn why man is condemned and why he is <sup>what</sup> he is. And why he is so prone to sin. And why he has denied the Creator... *and why he needs salvation - Roman 1:18*

(Read Vs 18)

Many will not face the truth because of their own sin. They are <sup>holding</sup> ~~who~~ing it back. They are dishonest. They are not sincere. Their hearts are being deceitfull.

READ VS 19-20

There is not a person in the world who has any excuse for rejecting Jesus Christ if he will only look at the creation about him. God has given us much light about himself. And there are two things you ~~can~~ learn about God from Creation.

One, that he is eternal . That is, who ever made the world had to exist before it all started. And secondly, his power. Whoever he was, He was bigger than you and I...And that is the beginning point in knowing how God has revealed himself to us....

Now, notice those who have rejected that knowledge from creation, and all people have that knowledge, the Bible say that they are without excuse.

(Read Vs 21-22)

<sup>Their</sup> There foolish heart was darkened. Because they denied the existence of the creator and his power. And they are without excuse. When they knew God they did not glorify him. And they were not thankful..

My friend, <sup>This is very serious</sup> ~~I don't care who you are..christian or non-christian..~~if you know God and you are not thankful and glorify him in your life, the heart has a tendence to be darkened.

Now, Ephesians chapter 4, please. Here we learn another principle about the darkness of the heart. A heart that is desperately wicked. A heart that is dark. Meaning that there is no light. ~~When~~

When you come to christ there is one thing that God does with your heart, ~~according to 2 Corinthians 4~~. That is ~~that~~ God will shine light into our hearts.

In Ephesians 4, lets beginni at Vs 17....(READ 17-18)

*one*  
~~Their~~ understanding is darkened...WHY?....because of the hardness of their heart. Christians who try to walk as other men ~~walk~~ who are not chritiar ~~walk~~ In the vanity of thier minds. That means being pround of the kownledge and facts that you have absorpted into that mind, yet, you are walking <sup>living</sup> like a non-christian. The Bible says your understanding is darkened..... And you are much like those who are <sup>seperated</sup> ~~alienated~~ from the life of God. You have a separation of fellowship with Him. And the problem is that you are blind in your heart. And you are past feeling...Vs 19..and you will give yourself over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

And Paul remains us in Vs 20 that you did not learn Christ in this way.

So, it is very important to understand the heart. What is this blindness, this darkness of the heart? The heart that understands the knowledge that the mind receives. How can this heart be darkened? *How can it happen?*

(3) This brings us to the third principle we learn in the Bible about the heart. And that is the defliment of the heart. The defilment of the heart, And it is this defiled condition that causes the darkness and blindness of the heart. ~~I have found so much on this subject.~~ *That Cause people not to want to Have The U'ision of God (Quat 2Tim 4:3)*

*and*  
~~and~~ in our text of Matthew 15:18 Jesus said that those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile <sup>depress</sup> ~~man~~.

*and*  
And the conclusion to his argument is in Vs 20. And it is simplyly this: That these things defile a man. That which comes out of the haart...NOT.. doing some little ritualist thing as not <sup>washing</sup> ~~washing~~ your hands when the Pharisees thought you should have. He is not talking about external things when he is talking aboutt the heart. But, he is talking about internal things. ~~That~~



That the heart can be deeply defiled. These are what defiles the mind and the body and the life. It is those things which come out-off the heart. The heart can be very much defiled.

Now, <sup>once again look at</sup> ~~turn back to~~ Romans chapter 1. In Romans 1 we have the terrible picture of one who rejects God, rejects the God who created the universe, even though he knows something about him, he rejects what he knows because of his own sin, And we discover that God ~~will~~ give ~~to~~ that person up ~~to~~ an unclean heart....

<sup>Look</sup> ~~Let's begin at~~ Vs 24...(READ 24-28...and so on and on....)

There is a history here of sin and wickedness and defilement and the problem is the heart. God gave them up to uncleanness. To the lust of ~~the~~ their own heart. <sup>Now</sup> People, what is wrong with us, the heart trouble that we have is resulting in a great deal of defilement. That is going to ruin us and destroy us both now, as well as, for eternity.

Vs 32 says.....(Read Vs 32)

People ~~today~~ are living in a pleasure man's world. In a sex filled world. And we are <sup>being</sup> ~~being~~ dominated by the sin and defilement that comes from the ~~heart~~ <sup>heart</sup> that God says is desperately wicked. Until we see the reall problem, <sup>we will</sup> ~~it is~~ <sup>never really find deliverance</sup> not the outside world that is effecting us. Over and over again, Christian

young people say: "Well, I wouldn't have done that if it were not for the temptation I face <sup>in the world</sup> on my high school campus. You are a liar....Jesus said your are.... It is out of the abundance of the heart that these things come,

Paul lived in a day of great wickedness. He walked into Athens, a city that was vile and immoral. And it was worse than this city of ~~Tart~~ <sup>S.I.F</sup>. But, Paul could count himself as worthy and separated unto God and to <sup>live</sup> ~~work~~ the life that God wanted him to <sup>live</sup> ~~work~~ because he recognized ~~that~~ that he had heart trouble and their was only one person who could solve that. And that ~~was~~ <sup>Reason</sup> ~~God, himself~~ <sup>was Jesus christ</sup>

<sup>Don't Fear</sup> ~~Reckless~~, we must stop blaming someone else. We must stop blaming our society and the temptations of this sin filled world we live in. The problem is as Jesus said in his day and it is still true today, the problem is our own hearts.....

We are defiled and we are desperately wicked and we don't even understand it. That is what Jeremiah said. WHO CAN KNOW IT? It is only the Lord who can know the heart. And Romans chapter 1 tells the allful story.

In Genesis 6:5, the Bible says that God saw the wickedness of man and that it was great in the earth. And that every intent of the thoughts of his HEART was only evil continually. And God brought the judgment of the flood.

In 2 Peter 3 God says "just like it was then, so shall it be at the end of the world." And God, once again, will judge the hearts of men. This time by fire

But, He is judging every one of us every single day. If you have never done anything at all about your heart, if you have never turned to Christ, the wrath of God is abiding upon you, right now. Because of the heart trouble you experience daily...The heart is defiled and wicked *and it is deceitful.*

( ) Now, what can we do about the heart problem? How can we find deliervance?

What must we do?

If you think, today, that you are not in the same position as discribed in Romans chapter 1, then you are mistaken. For a heart that goes unchecked, a life that does not realize its condition is only fooling itself. You are not fooling God. There is not a single person in this room today, no matter how good you think you are, or, how good you hope to be, there is not a single person here today who doesn't have the ability to commit the worst sin that God ever mentioned in His Word, or, man ever designed. That is what the Bible teaches about the heart. It is decietful and wicked.

So, what is our answer? Where do we find deliverance? The only way to be delievered from a defiled heart is to have a clean heart that God creates. David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Delieverence comes only through Jesus Christ. And here is what we must do.

(1) <sup>First,</sup>

Turn to the book of Acts chapter 2. In the book of Acts chapter 2 we have the account of the day of Pentecost. The first day when this great <sup>Evangelist</sup> missionary message of Peter was ~~delivered~~ <sup>preached</sup>. The first day when the church, the body of Christ, began. And many exciting things happened that day.

3 thousand people were born again on that day. But I notice something about ~~this~~ <sup>that</sup> day. In Acts 2 verse 37. Peter had just finished preaching. And he concluded by saying "Let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified." Then Vs 37.....(Read Vs 37-38)

They were pierced to the heart. <sup>you see</sup> <sup>This</sup> And deliverance begins with conviction. And conviction comes by hearing the Word of God. They were convicted in their heart and said: "What shall we do?"....

The sad ~~thing~~ <sup>thing</sup> ~~here~~ is that many ~~of us~~ <sup>of you</sup> because of ~~our~~ <sup>their</sup> sin will surpass the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit of God. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> will resist him because ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> are in sin. Because ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> don't want to give it up. Because there is pleasure in sin, ~~and the Bible says there is.~~ <sup>and the Bible says there is.</sup> But, it is only for a season and then it pays an alfull price. <sup>But deliverance From the Heart Problem</sup> It begins with conviction.

Do not surpass the convicting voice of the Spirit. They were pierced in the heart. And they said: WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

And that is the place we must come to. Recognizing the heart trouble that we have. That the heart is defiled. It is wicked. It is dark and blinded. WHAT CAN I DO....

Deliverance First of all, begin with conviction. When the voce of God the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart through his word, when you hear the Word of Gdd as it is preached, then say: WHAT WHALL WE DO?.....Accept that conviction as being from God....And when God points his fingure on something in your life, don't resist it. Don't fight it. Don't pass it off. You see, God is working. God is putting his fingure on the place in our lives that needs to be cleansed and changed. Do NOT RESIST THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. The Bible say, "My spirit will not always abide with man." According to the Bible he works with the heart. And <sup>Deliverance</sup> it begins with conviction.



2) Then secondly, according to Acts 8, turn there please, <sup>delivered</sup> involves believing in Jesus Christ.

When Jesus met those two men who were walking on that road to Emmaus, following his resurrection, two men who were trying to interpret the events of the crucifixion of Jesus, Jesus said to them: "Oh, fools, and slow of heart to believe."

It is with the heart that man believes. Notice Acts 8:35....This is a tremendous passage. It involves Philip who was a deacon in the church. And Philip was witnessing to an Ethiopian eunuch. A man of great authority A man in charge of the whole treasury of the Ethiopian Queen. He was out in the desert and <sup>Philip</sup> he was witnessing to this man. He preached unto him Jesus from the Prophet Isaiah.

Vs 35 says.....(Read) Vs 35-36

Every <sup>person</sup> man in that <sup>day</sup> knew the meaning of Baptism. It was an outward public identification with the thing that you were <sup>forming</sup> ~~going~~. He was a Jewish convert. He had to go through baptism to join the Jews. And immediately when he heard of Christ. He said, "I want to identify with Christ What is stopping me?"

Vs 37....."And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart".... Notice, it says heart...not mind. But heart, "you <sup>may</sup>". "And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'" "And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water and <sup>Philip</sup> baptized him."

By friend, no one <sup>should</sup> be baptized unless they believe with all <sup>his</sup> their heart. If you have believed in Jesus christ with all your heart, then be baptized. But, if you have never believed, no matter how <sup>many</sup> ~~many~~ times you have been baptized, you are not saved. Only those who believe with all their heart that Jesus is the Christ can be saved. And if you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, whether child or adult, no matter what your religious background or church affiliation, if you believe ~~and then~~ <sup>with all of your heart, you can be saved</sup>

~~you have never been baptized you can now. Because now and only now if you believe in your heart can you identify yourself <sup>publical</sup> with Christ. True delieverance for the heart <sup>with</sup> comes through personal belief in Jesus Christ.~~

We learn, also, in Romans 10:9-10 that it is with the heart that man believes resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses resulting in salvation.

You see, confession is <sup>also</sup> important. But, my friends, it is with the heart that <sup>we</sup> ~~man~~ believes. You <sup>cannot</sup> believe with your mouth. The mouth speaks of that which the heart produces. You must believe in your heart. We are saved according <sup>to</sup> the belief of the heart and the confession of the mouth.

(3) But, I notice something else in Acts chapter 16. Turn there please. Acts 16 and verse 14. And this is the story of Lydia. A great lady. The first convert of Europe as some like ~~to~~ say.

We read in Vs 14.....(Read Vs 14).....

Now, Romans 10 clearly teaches that it is with the heart that man believes. ~~The point that I want to emphasize, right now, is~~ <sup>Now, notice</sup> that delieverance for the heart is the work of God. According to Vs 14 it is God who opens the heart.

out

You see, God knows what you think. He knows what you want. And it is God who opens the heart. Jesus said that it is the Spirit who draws men to the Father. ~~We~~ think that we are coming, but the truth of the matter is that God who loves us, who wants to do something about our heart <sup>problem</sup> is the one who brings us to himself. God wants to do more for us than we could ever possible desire him to do for us. THE HEART, GOD OPENS...

(4) But, I notice also, in the Book of Romans, if you would like to turn to chapter 6:17. <sup>The third concept</sup> We learn that delieverance of the heart <sup>problem</sup> comes through obeying the Word. Romans 6:17...(Reading)

*This is why some people do NOT want the Word of God Preach - a Taught*

You become obedient from the heart <sup>to</sup> that form of teaching to which you were committed. Delieverance comes through ~~a work of God. Through~~ our recognizing the convicting voice of the Spirit of God and saying: WHAT SHALL ~~WE~~ DO?...It involves believing in Jesus Christ. And it involves obeying the Word of God. *Faith Comes by Hearing, Hearing by the Word of God*

(6) ~~Finally, I would like to say that~~ I learned from the Bible that there is devotion from the heart. There is devotion from the heart. And <sup>the scope</sup> this devotion is in three areas.

(1) <sup>First of all</sup> ~~The scope of this devotion is~~ for the Lord. In Matthew 22:37: "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart."

In Epheisan 5:19 talking about a christian who is felled with the Spirit. It says he makes melody with the heart to the Lord.

The heart has the ability to bring devotion to God. You may honor God with the knowledge and the facts you have accumulated in your mind, you may honor him with your lips and with your words and your actions, but according to the Bible it is the love of the Heart that God wants. When we make melody we make it in our heart to the Lord. And God knows what our hearts are like.

(2) I notice, also, in the scope of this devotion of the heart that it is amongst believers. In I Peter 1:22 it says to love believers, to love one another with a pure heart. Boy, if there was ever a teaching that was needed, this is it....To love one another...Beleivers loving one another with a <sup>pure</sup> heart. That means a sincere heart. Not with hypocrisy...Not coming up and saying I love you and then talking about him behind his back... Loving <sup>one</sup> another with a sincere heart. And we are to do this "fervently."

Christians if your are lax in your loving other christians and trying to care for them as members of the body should, then you are violating a scripture priinciple which is a gommand. We are to love one another ferently with all our heart.

(3) And then third, I learn that the scope of this devotion is for the World itself. . The heart that communicates to a world that needs Christ. Paul said that he had great sorrow in his heart for his people that they might be saved.

I wander for kind of devotion of the heart we have towards the non-christian world.....



The source of this devotion that comes from the heart is clearly spoken of in Romans 5:5 when it says "the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

I also learn something about the direction of the heart as to who controls it. It is God who wants to control the heart. I learn that the peace of God will keep our hearts and minds. I learn that we should let the peace of God rule in our hearts. It is a command. DO IT...Any thing less is worry.

I learn, also, that God test the heart. He is proving us and testing us all the time.

I learn, also, that God establishes our heart. It make it firm, against all the pressures of temptation about us.

I learn, also, that God comforts the heart. There is a beautiful passage in 2 Thess. 2:17....

Now, all of this I want to summarise by asking you: WHAT IS THE HEART? I am not sure I know. I know it is more than ~~the~~ emotion. Far more than emotion because it thinks and it understands and it perceives. And it controls and directs and has will and purpose. The heart is never likened unto Body, Soul, and Spirit structure. It is always in relationship to mind and facts.

What is the heart? There is one <sup>verse</sup> thing that gave me a clue. Do you remember one time when Jesus refered to the center of the <sup>earth</sup> ~~earth~~, He said: "The heart of the earth". And he used the same word we have been discussing...

~~the~~ point is this...IT WAS THE CENTER.....It was the only illustration I found in all of these passages that gave me any clue as to what the heart is.....And I believe, now, ~~that the~~ heart is THE CONTROLLING CENTER OF MAN?

It is the controlling factor of man. And it is that which is defiled and dark and sinful and wicked. It is that <sup>which only</sup> ~~which~~ can be delievered. It is that which God wants to direct. He wants to control it. ~~Not us..~~ It is that which must show devotion towards God. It is that which the Holy Spirit ~~deals with~~ deals with. ~~THE HEART IS~~

And

And

And

Dear Friend

*of your life*

WHAT EVER THE HEART IS. IT IS A CONTROLLING FACTOR. For out off  
the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ~~The heart~~ It is you .....And God wants  
to clean you and me up.....He wants to change the heart.

My friend if you have never come to accept Jesus Christ, listen to what  
I say. There is no hope for you both now or for eternity without letting  
Jesus Christ come into your heart. He wants to come into the controlling  
center of your life and change you. He will take over and become the  
commander, the director, the Lord. He will give you <sup>a</sup> new heart as he promised.

And my christian friends, if there is sin in the life and the heart is  
getting blind, again, and insincere to its own sin, and the heart is  
wandering away from God, then I say to you that God wants to change you.  
Oh, yes, sin can come into the christian and take over and we push the H<sup>y</sup>  
Holy Spirit off to a far corner. And we are no longer being controlled by  
God. Oh listen, Christ Listen my friend, if you will confess your sins, God is faithful and  
just and he will forgive you and cleans you from all unrighteousness....

Create in me a clean heart, Oh, God.....  
~~Before~~ Let us close with prayer

*And I hope you will make  
That decision, today Before Gods  
Judge Comes*

1st step - when you say the Bible is Not The Word of God  
or  
Not Relevant For This Saged age