

HOW IS YOUR HEART?

Luke 24:13-33

Introduction: No doubt we are living in an age of hardness of heart and the Bible used shocking terms to describe our age - an age of unemotion. In the latter days, just before the return of Jesus Christ, people will be without natural affection, past feelings and will have seared consciences. The children will be disobedient to parents, people in general will be unthankful, ungodly and unholy.

No longer do we have the great revivals with the moving of the Holy Spirit as in times past. We have denied emotions in religious convictions and we have eliminated fear from preaching until we have a cold evangelism.

There is actual horror of any preacher preaching the old-fashioned “hell-fire” and brim stone sermons. We have blinded ourselves to the truth of God’s Word, that *“the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.”* There has never been one person genuinely saved and born again who was not afraid. One must fear the Lord or His Lordship will never be recognized.. We even pride ourselves in trying not to “scare” anyone into being saved.

There is not a true Christian who would not say that his/her heart is crushed by the fact that so many go away without God. Many go away and never live that Christian life. We have de-emotionalized repentance and evangelism. We have torn away the element of fear. When the Holy Spirit begins to work in a human heart, icy hearts are melted, the hammer of God’s Word crushes those stubborn spirits causing a burning heart. Faces are set aglow by the warming of the Spirit of God. All these things happen when people get face to face with God.

I. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN THE BIBLE IS “NOT”

1. When the women came to the tomb of that Easter morning, they found NOT the body of Jesus.
2. That empty tomb set the world afire and the course of human history was changed. It opened the doors to heaven and led to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It gave Christians burning hearts. All is built around the fact that they found NOT the body of Jesus in the tomb.
3. As Jesus came out of the tomb and His followers found the empty tomb, we find in this study’s scripture that a refocusing of certain human lives and interest is in order.
 - **v 14** - They talked about it just a few days before everyone had been talking in different tones and interests as who would sit at the right hand of Jesus as they were looking for an earthly kingdom.
 - Now they are talking about an empty tomb and the stories that they had been hearing about Jesus being alive.
 - Now that they had to refocus their thinking that perhaps Jesus was alive after all and if so, everything would be changed.
4. When Jesus came out of the grave, He brought with Him death. Death to all other interests other than the Kingdom. Death to all other ambitions other than doing the work of the Lord.

5. Look at a person who is building up a great dollar empire, who is devoting and squeezing every moment of life in the mad pursuit of wealth and power, and there you will see a person who has lost his/her love and affections. A person who has lost faith completely in the empty tomb and the risen Savior. When this glorious message of the risen Savior is drowned out by something else in life, then there is grave danger.

II. PEOPLE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE LOVE OF GOD

1. Even though the two men of Emmaus had to refocus their thinking and living, there still existed a great hindrance to their faith.
 - While they walked together and talked, their eyes were holden. (Blind)
 - They were blinded by their talking and reasoning to the fact, the truth of the risen Christ.
 - Nothing is so reasonable as the plan of salvation. It is far easier to believe in the account of the creation in the Bible than it is the fantastic results of the imagination of some men who call themselves evolutionists.
 - God has given a rational, reasonable, sensible account of the creation. Everything that God has ever revealed and given in His Word is utterly reasonable.
2. There was a time when there was not a heathen. There was a time when there was no idol worshiping. There was a time when every man, woman, boy and girl believed in the same God.
 - Suddenly the page of human history is turned and we find the introduction of paganism, idolatry, Godlessness, the worshiping of some creeping insect or some ridiculous object created by some person.
 - It was not the ignorance of man that started all this. It was not the fact that they were not intelligent nor was it not the fact that they had no philosophy or education. Man lost his knowledge of God because of his wisdom.
 - God speaks in Romans that it was because of man's wisdom that man knew not God. Man got so smart and thought that he was super intelligent and that he knew more than God. Therefore he lost completely his knowledge of God and drifted into the different Religions and cults of today.
 - Finally, the knowledge, the true knowledge of God became so distorted that it could hardly be recognized as the original lovely plan of Divine revelation.
3. Their eyes were blinded because they reasoned together. Do you want to get to know God? Do you want to make sure your sins are forgiven? Do you want a positive assurance that you will go to heaven?
 - You will never get it on the platform of human philosophy or reasoning. God says "***He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.***"
 - These two men were walking along, busy talking/reasoning. Jesus asked them what manner of conversation this was. "...***why are you sad?...***" Jesus knew what was wrong, He recognized their feelings. He was sympathetic and He remembered that they were but dust. He was moved with compassion.

- Jesus has the same interest in YOU. He is definitely interested in your problems, in your sins, in your weaknesses, in your heartaches. You say, “there is no one that knows how heavy your heart is,” well Jesus knows, and He understands. Sometime, sooner or later your closest friend will let you down but Jesus will stick closer than any brother. Trust in Him.
4. Jesus talked to them and they asked Him if He were a stranger, they didn’t recognize Jesus.
 - They had a faltering faith because they had misplaced confidence.
 - They had concentrated their interests upon the Kingdom rather than upon the King.
 - They had their faith fixed upon a glory and a political position rather than upon the redemption through Jesus’ blood.
 - In spite of all their sincerity, their faith was fixed upon the wrong thing. SINCERITY will save no person. FAITH saves no person, UNLESS that faith is founded in the right place.
 5. The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, “...*what must I do to be saved?*”
 - He was not told that he should do the best he could to get to heaven.
 - He was not told to live up to the Golden Rule and treat everybody right.
 - Nothing like that was he told. Neither was he told to go to worship every Lord’s Day.
 - Paul said: “...*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...*”
 - There is no other way. Faith will save no person, sincerity will save no person unless that sincerity and faith is placed in the right person, Jesus Christ.
 - What are you trusting in to get you to heaven? Your Church? Your Baptism? Neither of these will save you. Jesus said, “...*no man cometh unto the Father but by Me...*”
 6. Jesus said to them that they were slow to believe.
 - People will readily believe history even there is not a historically correct record anywhere.
 - Every nation writes it’s record slanted to give itself the best light as possible.
 - People say they believe science of today. Yet tomorrow the science of today will be contrasted and out of date.
 - Psychology shows that all human reasoning will be changed in a few years as it always has been done.
 - People will believe about everything but the unchanging simplicity of God’s plan of Salvation.

III. THEN THEIR EYES WERE OPENED

1. They invited the Master in. While He broke bread they finally recognized Him. What was it? The nail prints in His hands?
 - The reason some Christians do not know Jesus Christ better is because they are too lazy to read His Word. They spend hours pouring over the paper, magazines and sit glued to the T.V. getting emotionally involved in what they are watching but they have no time to read God’s Word.

- They they wonder why their prayers go unanswered and they wonder why their friends are still not saved. Jesus is found in the Bible and in the lives of His people.
- Jesus can be seen only as the Christian lets Him be seen in his/her life.

IV. THEIR HEARTS BURNED WITHIN THEM

1. They never finished their meal. They had to run tell someone else about the risen Jesus Christ.
“*...did not our hearts burn within us...*” they said as they ran?
2. They went to their homes unbelievers, foolish, with hearts slow to believe, hearts calloused because of their lack of faith. Something happened to change their hearts.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every person either has a heart that is right with God or a heart that is dead in sin and blinded by the god of this world, a heart that is untouched and unmoved by the Holy Spirit.
2. How is your heart? Do you have a burning heart or a cold, indifferent heart? Have you been away from God too long?
3. Now is the time to get yourself where God wants you to be.