



The Heart of the Giver

Mark 10:18-22

The Heart of the Giver

- This man wanted to go to heaven
- He lived a moral life
- He wanted to follow Christ
- He thought he was ready
- Can you identify with this?
- It never entered his mind that his attitude toward his material possessions would keep him from all of these things.

The Heart of the Giver

- What cost him his eternal life?
 - Adultery?
 - Homosexuality?
 - Murder?
 - Theft?
 - Abortion?
 - Gambling?
 - Drunkenness?
- Because of his attitude toward stuff, his heart was not right; he loved his money more than he loved his Lord.
- Prov. 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

Wrong Hearts

- Judas

- John 12:3-6 - “Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”
- “Temptation commonly comes through that for which we are naturally fitted.” (Westcott Commentary)

Wrong Hearts

- Familiarity with his stewardship led him to relax enough to let temptation in
- After a while, temptation modified his heart to a lover of money instead of a lover of the poor
- It is dangerous to become too comfortable with our gifts to the point where temptation catches us off guard
 - 1Cor. 10:12 - “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Wrong Hearts

- Ananias and Sapphira
 - Acts 5:1-11
- Deceit by a few hinders all of God's people
 - Joshua 7:1 - "But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel."

Wrong Hearts

- If we try to leave the impression we are giving liberally, but secretly give reluctantly, we are just as guilty of deceit as Ananias and Sapphira
 - Mal. 3:8, 10 - “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings... 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”

Spiritual Hearts

- Barnabas
 - Acts 4:36-37 - “And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.”
 - Joses would have had rights as a Levite to land that would become his livelihood and retirement, and he gave it up.

Spiritual Hearts

- The Poor Widow

- Mark 12:41-44 - “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

Spiritual Hearts

- How would our giving change if it were done publicly with Jesus present to look on?
- We believe we have a right to privacy when we give, but what we can't expect is privacy from what the Lord sees on Sunday.
- He not only knows how much we put in, He knows what we keep back

Spiritual Hearts

- David
 - 2Sam. 24:18-25
- “He who has a religion that costs him nothing, has a religion that is worth nothing”
 - Prov. 3:9 - “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase”

Spiritual Hearts

- Mal. 1:6-8 - “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' 7 You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.”

Spiritual Hearts

- 2Cor. 8:1-5 - “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”