



“The Jesus Story: The One Everybody Can Know”

Luke 8:1-15

May 26, 2013

“Plato located the soul of man in the head; Christ located it in the heart.” -St. Jerome

“Put everything you have into the care of your heart, for it determines what your life amounts to.” -Dallas Willard

“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” -Jesus Christ (Matthew 12:24)

Why is your heart so important to God? Because the condition of your heart will determine how you will respond to God and His Word.

XII. The Heart: Four Possible Soil Conditions (Luke 8:1-15)

A. The unresponsive heart. (v.5, 11-12)

1. The seed represents the Word of God.
2. God speaks to mankind in three ways: through creation, through the conscience, and through His Word, the Bible. (Ps 19:1-3)
3. Understand that God reveals Himself to everyone who has ever lived through creation. This is known as general or universal revelation because it applies to everyone of all time. (Rom 1:19-20)
4. He has revealed Himself to all of us through our consciences, that is, our minds. (Rom 2:14-15)
 - a. The universal moral law: If a universal moral law exists, then there must be a moral law Giver. That moral law giver is God.

b. God has placed within each conscience the idea of His existence.

(Eccl 3:11)

c. We were each created to know the God who made us. (Jn 17:3)

5. There is a more direct way that God speaks to mankind and that is through His written or spoken Word. This is special revelation.
6. Our primary responsibility is to respond to the light that we have been given. (Lk 12:48; II Cor 4:3-4)
7. Biblical principle: the more you hear the gospel and fail to respond in faith, the harder your heart becomes.
8. Religion hardens the hearts of people. (Matt 13:14-15)

B. The superficial heart. (v.6, 13)

1. Superficial means on the surface.

C. The worldly heart. (v.7, 14)

1. The two primary tools that Satan uses to keep men and women from saving faith in our country are churchism and materialism. (Matt 19:24; I Jn 2:15-17; I Sam 16:7)

D. The receptive heart (v.8, 15)

1. There are three conditions that show that this heart is so different from the others:
 - a. The receptive heart understands God's word (Matt 13:23; I Cor 2:14)
 - b. The receptive heart perseveres in its belief. (Heb 11:27)
 - c. The receptive heart produces fruit. (v.15; Jn 15:5)
2. One of the great privileges of being a child of God is this: God shares His truth with His children. (v.10)
3. Notice the warning in v.10: At some point, and only God knows when, a person's heart becomes so hard that His word cannot penetrate.
4. What we all need is a new heart! (Ez 36:26-27)