

## Hidden Chambers Of The Heart

Text : **Ezekiel 8**

### INTRODUCTION :

A. **Read ... Ezek. 8: 5-12**

1. This message for ancient Israel also has a message for us.  
**Rom. 15: 4- For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction,**
2. There is a reason why some writings were preserved and others were not.
  - a. It was not that there were so few people writing things down.
  - b. Library at Alexandria was known to have had more than 50K volumes.
3. God preserved this book of prophecy because it had two messages :
  - a. One message was for Israel of old.
  - b. There was also a message for Christians, i.e., for all future generations.

B. **There is at least one timeless message of our text :**

1. Men tend to place importance upon the things they can see.  
**II Cor. 5: 12- We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.**
2. God looks beyond the surface into the heart of a man.  
**I Sam. 16:7- But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**

C. **Even while on earth, Jesus knew the hearts and thoughts of men :**

1. **Luke 9: 47- But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side,**
2. **Luke 12: 1b-2- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup> But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.**
3. **Luke 16: 15- And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.**
4. This is why He condemned the Pharisees.
  - a. He kept calling them hypocrites.
  - b. He called them whitewashed tombs.

**TRANSITION :**

**This is a timeless lesson that applies to all of us.**

**I. Many outwardly religious people have not real faith.**

**A. Only God can look into the heart of a man.**

1. We must never stoop to becoming judgmental.
2. Each one of us must continually look into his own heart.

**B. Faith is a matter of being saved or lost eternally.**

1. Salvation is ONLY by grace **through** faith.
2. Thus, one who has no true faith is lost with no hope of Heaven.

**C. There are members of the church who are only social Christians.**

1. Some social Christians were born to Christian parents and “raised in the church.”
  - a. Some of these have never known life without attending the church.
  - b. Going to church is as habitual as getting out of bed in the morning.
2. Social Christians often enjoy religious activities.
  - a. They enjoy the fellowship of the brethren.
  - b. They like to sing and do religious activities.
  - c. **ILL.- John’s girl friend.**
3. Social Christians are a mission field.
  - a. They are a very difficult group to reach.
    - 1) It is very difficult to identify a social Christians and we can’t be judgmental.
    - 2) They feel they are saved.
  - b. It is most common for people to start off as social Christians and develop faith.
  - c. The danger is in being stranded on the social level.

**D. Social Christians are a danger to the congregation as well as to themselves.**

1. They can destroy a congregation.
2. If a social Christian gets into leadership, he destroys attitude of church..
3. If they come to outnumber the faithful, the congregation stops reaching the lost and becomes a religious social club.

## II. One's heart determines his response to the world.

### A. One with an evil heart sees the evil in everything.

1. **Titus 1: 15-** To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.
2. They will never miss the point of a green joke.

### B. One's actions are motivated by his heart.

1. **Luke 6: 45-** The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.
2. The hypocrite can only fake it so long and he's never comfortable.

## III. One's heart determines his response to the gospel.

### A. Jesus said :

1. **Matt. 13:13-** Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
2. **Matt. 13: 9, 43** - ... He who has ears, let him hear.
3. **I Cor. 1: 18-** For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but ...

### B. Obedience to the gospel must come from a heart of faith.

1. Philip told the Ethiopian treasurer that he must have faith before baptism.  
**Acts 8:36-37** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
2. Paul told the Roman Christians that only a heartfelt response lead to forgiveness.  
**Rom. 6: 17-** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
3. The 3000 on Pentecost obeyed from their hearts.  
**Acts 3: 37-** Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

### C. It is only through faith that one establishes and maintains a relationship with God.

1. **Heb. 11: 6-** without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

2. **Heb. 10: 22-** let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**D. No one will ever be saved by religious acts or good deeds.**

1. **Eph. 2: 8-9**
2. Some faith responses are required, but without the faith, the responses are worthless.

**IV. One's relationship with God and his worship are expressions of the heart.**

**A. Worship is an expression of one's heart.**

1. Many today have reduced worship to a show for the benefit of the worshipper.
2. The Psalmist understood the nature of worship.
 

**Psa. 111: 1-** Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly.
3. Jesus taught us this same lesson.
  - a. **John 4: 24-** God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
  - b. This text is talking about the attitude of worship, not it's doctrinal purity.

**B. Christian worship must come from the heart.**

1. **Eph. 5: 19-** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
2. The speaking is to each other.
3. Singing is distinguished from "making melody."
4. Melody is directed to the Lord and it is MADE WITH THE HEART.

**C. God knows whether or not one's worship comes from his heart.**

1. **Matt. 15: 8-9** This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. <sup>9</sup> But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.
2. God is not obligated to accept worship just because it is offered.
 

**Jer. 6: 19b-20** Because they have not listened to My words, And as for My law, they have rejected it also. <sup>20</sup> For what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba And the sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable And your sacrifices are not pleasing to Me.

**CONCLUSION :**

**A. The message of this lesson is : God want our hearts, not just compliance.**

**Heb. 10: 22-** let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**B. When we stand before God, it is our hearts that will be evaluated.**

1. **Heb. 4: 12-** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. God is interested in WHY we do the things we do.

3. A person of faith cannot be stopped from glorifying God.

a. He may make mistakes, but he will always try to please God.

b. When he realizes his wrong, he'll change to make it right.

**C. Thus, it is ours hearts that will determine our eternal destiny.**

1. **Rom. 10: 10-** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

2. Giving God our hearts is the most important thing we can do on this earth.

**Matt. 22: 36-37** Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

3. Where we place our love, our loyalty and our faith is a decision of our hearts.

a. We each have the freedom to choose.

b. God is aware of the choices we make and WHY we make them.

c. No man can avoid choosing whether or not he will love God.

**Matt. 12: 30-** He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

**D. What have you chosen ?**

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