

The Great Life: All My Heart

Mark 12:28-34

1/25/2015

SAY WHAT?: The #1 Commandment

A great commitment to the great commandment will make a great life.

SO WHAT?: The heart of the matter

Prov. 4:23, Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

- God created you with your own unique S.H.A.P.E.:
 - o S – spiritual gifts
 - o H – heart
 - o A – abilities
 - o P – personality
 - o E – experiences
- “Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” - Howard Thurman

NOW WHAT?: Winning the “storage war”

Luke 6:45, A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matt. 6:21, For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 6:44, Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

Psalm 37:4, Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on January 25, 2015

The Great Life: All My Heart; Mark 12:28-34

Ice Breaker: Fill in the blank; “ I wish I could _____ to my heart’s content.”
Spend a minute or two sharing why this is your heart’s desire.

Questions for GROUP DISCUSSION- B. Choate

When the bible talks about the heart, what is talking about and why should you guard it? (See Prov 4:23)

Have people share their spiritual gift with the group. How can that gift be used within the group? (If they don't know their gift, a gift survey is on the TBC website)

How can you help others in your family learn about and use their spiritual gifts?

Questions for PERSONAL GROWTH

Monday- From last week, “what does love have to do with it”? Please review by reading Galatians 5:16-18 and 1 John 4:4, along with our series passage, Mark 12:38-42. What are we told to do? How are we able to comply with that command? If the Holy Spirit enables us to love, and He resides in us, why do we find it so difficult to do at times? Please read Genesis 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; and 1 John 1:8 for your answer.

Tuesday- Are you “half-hearted” or “whole-hearted”? Please read Deuteronomy 6:5, the earliest reference to loving God with all of our being, along with Genesis 6:5; Joshua 5:6 and 1 John 1:10. Consider the history behind Moses’ command to them. Who was he addressing and what had they gone through during the past forty years? Why had the Israelites wandered in a desert for 40 years that ordinarily should have taken only days to cross? Moses, just as they were on the brink of finally entering the Promised Land, reminded them of what God expected of them. How would you summarize his message?

Wednesday- Is it possible to have “a change of heart”? Lets examine the struggles of Peter, a disciple and friend of Jesus. Begin by reading John 13:6-9, 31-38 and Luke 22:33,54-62. From these passages, what informs you of Peter’s belief and love for Jesus? Did Peter realize that, despite his best intentions, he would fail Him? Now please turn to John 21:6, 13-17. Keep in mind that in Jesus’ first two questions, He used the word “agapeo” (the highest kind of love of total commitment) but Peter affirms his love for Jesus by using the word “phileo” (a lesser term of brotherly affection). What significance does Peter’s humble recognition of his inability to please the Lord in his own strength hold in Jesus’ willingness to reinstate him? Has your response to your own sin been such that would invite Jesus to heal, renew, restore, and forgive you?

Thursday- What does loving the Lord “will all our heart” look like? Please turn to Psalm 73:1-3, 21-28, where the Psalmist declares that God is His first love, his greatest desire on earth. What types of worldly things tug at our hearts to hinder us from loving God in this way? Now please read 2 Corinthians 3. What happens when we “turn” our hearts toward God? Ask God to re-ignite your desire and ability to love Him with your whole heart. Do your part; call on His name, confess and apply His grace, and spend time with Him in His Word and prayer.

Friday- Trust and Obey, for there is no other way... From Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12-13; and 11:1, how does Moses exhort Israel to manifest their love? Does Jesus confirm that obedience is the evidence of our genuine love for Him (see John 14:15; 2 John 6)? How will you manifest your whole “heart-love” for Christ in light of this lesson? Thank You, Jesus, that You can heal and restore our hearts and minds.