

February 16, 2020

“Transplant:
A Change of Heart”

“A Change in Morality” Core 19

“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!” Matthew 5:20

A. Jesus called for a heart change to bring about a change in morality...

“And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” Mark 12:30

1. Whatever we treasure or value, reveals our heart’s desires.

“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:21

2. Our actions are a result of what is in our heart.

“A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart.” Matthew 12:35

“For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.” Matthew 15:19

3. The heart is changed by what happens in the mind.

“Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.” Titus 1:5

4. Our actions are changed when our hearts are changed.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.” James 4:8

5. When we surrender our hearts to Christ, His Spirit lives in us. As we walk in obedience, His Spirit will continue to transform us to glorify our Father in heaven.

“Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This ‘letter’ is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.” 2 Corinthians 3:3

“Christianity is not so much what you know, as it is Who you know. True Christianity is not evidenced by a full head, but rather by a changed heart.” -Calvin Wittman

B. Hearing...saying...writing...

“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:13a, 14a, 16

1. Jesus gave these words in a context of Old Testament, His Words, and the tradition of the Pharisees.

“You have heard...But I say...It is written...”

“...more than half of Americans have read little or none of the Bible. Twenty-two percent read a little bit each day, in a systematic approach. A third (35 percent) never pick it up at all, while 30 percent look up things in the Bible when they need to. Nineteen percent re-read their favorite parts, while 17 percent flip open the Bible and read a passage at random. A quarter (27 percent) read sections suggested by others, while 16 percent say they look things up to help others.”

-Lifeway Research

2. Jesus wanted them to know that He did not come to abolish the Law.

“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.” Matthew 5:17

3. Jesus taught them that we would need the Word until heaven and earth pass away.

“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.” Matthew 5:18

4. Jesus taught them that practical application of all of God’s Word was essential.

“So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 5:19

5. Jesus taught them that we could never achieve enough goodness to get to heaven!

“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!” Matthew 5:20

C. Jesus gave six cases to look at a heart change...

“You have heard...But I say...”

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder’...But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!” Matthew 5:21a, 22a

1. Anger is the heart issue for murder.

“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28

2. Lust is the heart issue for adultery.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.” Matthew 5:31-32

3. Divorce is a heart issue and is destructive to individuals, families, and our society.

“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ But I say, do not make any vows! ...Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.” Matthew 5:33, 34a, 37

4. Our word should be trusted.

“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.” Matthew 5:38-41

5. Retaliation has no place in our hearts, rather we offer a nonviolent resistance.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” Matthew 5:43-44

6. Our heart needs to go deeper in not just loving those who love us but loving our enemies.

D. So...what will you do with the Truth?

1. Seek a changed heart! A heart change brings a life change.
2. Spend more time in the Word! Commit to a daily reading of God’s Word and “change the way you think.”
3. Commit to purity in your thought life. Change whatever behavior that might be harming moral purity.
4. Determine to have a reputation where your word is trusted. Begin by asking forgiveness for your failed word and committing to being trustworthy.
5. Repent of bitterness, unforgiveness, or resentment and commit to demonstrating the love of Christ to those offenders...still keeping healthy boundaries.

“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.” Colossians 3:10

February 23: A Change in Prayer