

Jesus is After Our Hearts

Sunday February 28, 2021

Leave My Heart Alone

In what ways have you hidden behind outward indicators to make you look like a "good person"?

What sinful or shameful things do you hide behind this façade? Why do you keep them hidden?

We may be able to fool others, but we can't fool Jesus. His desire is to transform us, inside out!

Will you allow Him to expose core issues so He can bring healing and wholeness?

Inviting J.C. to Dinner (Lk. 14:1; Lk. 7:34)

Why do you think Jesus accepted dinner invitations, even from people who didn't like Him?

Have you ever befriended someone you didn't like because of the potential benefits?

Avoiding Evil vs. Pursuing God (Lk. 14:2-6)

Is it easier to "avoid evil" or "actively do good"? Why?

In what ways do we hide behind "doing right" to avoid having to expose our hearts to God?

Rules are easy, following the heart of God is more difficult. But what is better?

Perception is Everything (Lk. 14:7-11)

"Honor and shame refer to the ongoing attribution or loss of esteem by one's peers, family, social-class, city, and so on. In Roman society this respect was based on such things as wealth, education, rhetorical skill, family pedigree, and political connections. These were the culture's 'status-indicators.'"

Michael Gorman, Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters, 13.

In what ways could shame, in ancient Jewish culture, hamper your day to day life?

What cultural values give us societal importance today?

In what ways do we "hide behind" societal acceptability to make us feel alright?

Upward Mobility (Lk. 14:12-14)

What would happen in a culture of honour/shame if you were "downwardly mobile" socially?

In what ways are we addicted to "upward mobility" today? How does this look practically?

In what ways could we embrace "downward mobility" for the Kingdom's sake?

Take It Home:

When we peel back off our masks and expose the ugly tendencies of our hearts it reveals how earthly focused and self-centred we really are. We hide behind our morality and reputation and other externals, because with them, we can fool our friends (and think that perhaps even fool God) into believing that we have pure hearts.

Why are we content with external markers of acceptability when Jesus is after heart transformation?

Why is it so difficult for us to invest in eternity's Kingdom instead of our own earthly kingdom?

Jesus knows our hearts. He picks away at our external tendencies to reveal the ugly nature of sinful selfishness. He reveals our apathy for His Kingdom and our pre-occupation with our own kingdom. He wants to bring healing and change to us... If we let Him.

How can we give Jesus better access to our hearts so that He can bring lasting change?

What are some things we can do to work with Jesus in creating pure hearts in us?

If Christians modelled the heart of Jesus and His Kingdom, instead of hiding behind what the world holds dear, how could our world be changed?

How could greater "honesty" with a group of Christian peers aid in the transformation of our hearts?