



Heart
of
Worship

Introduction

There is a lot of talk about worship in the church today. This series is looking at “True Worship”. We want to discover the essence and practice of Biblical worship. My prayer is that you listen intently and examine your own life to see if it is characterized by “True Worship”!

Last week we saw that New Testament Worship is INTERNALIZED and DELOCALIZED.



The Heart

Last week we stated that True Worship is from the heart.

We need to seriously ask ourselves what that means.

What is the heart?

What does heart worship look like?



The Heart

We looked at this verse...

Matthew 15:8-9

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far
from Me. ⁹And in vain they worship Me, Teaching
as doctrines the commandments of men.”

He was talking to the Pharisees. They looked good
on the outside and the people looked up to them.

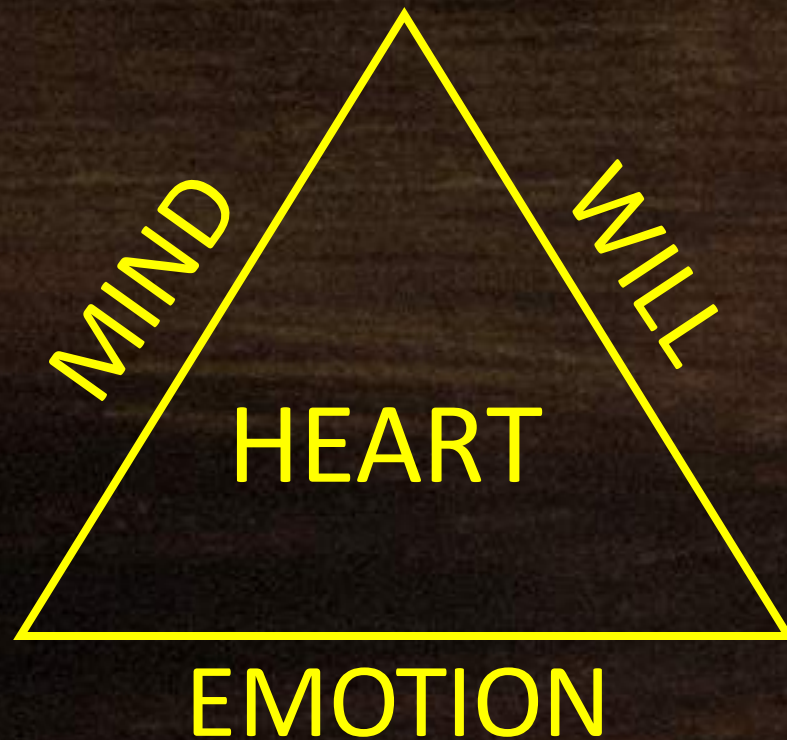
Jesus says their worship was empty because of
their heart.

We need to make sure we understand this issue of
the heart!



The Heart

The heart has been defined many ways. To make it simple, it is the center or control center of who we are.



The Heart

Mark 7:20-22

And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. ²¹ For from within, **out of the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.”

What we do, what we really are, comes out of our heart. To look at it from God’s point of view, a wicked heart worships wicked things!



The Heart

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Anybody can paint the barn. It is what is on the inside that matters. It is so easy to put on a facade, especially in worship.

However, the real person is found in the heart. It is what the person thinks about, feels and acts on. Eventually the things of the heart (good or bad) will spill over into life.



The Heart

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

What is in your heart? We want to have good treasure. The greatest treasure is a vibrant relationship with Jesus Himself. Let that be the consuming passion of your heart and let that overflow into your speech!



The Heart

Matthew 12:30-31

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”



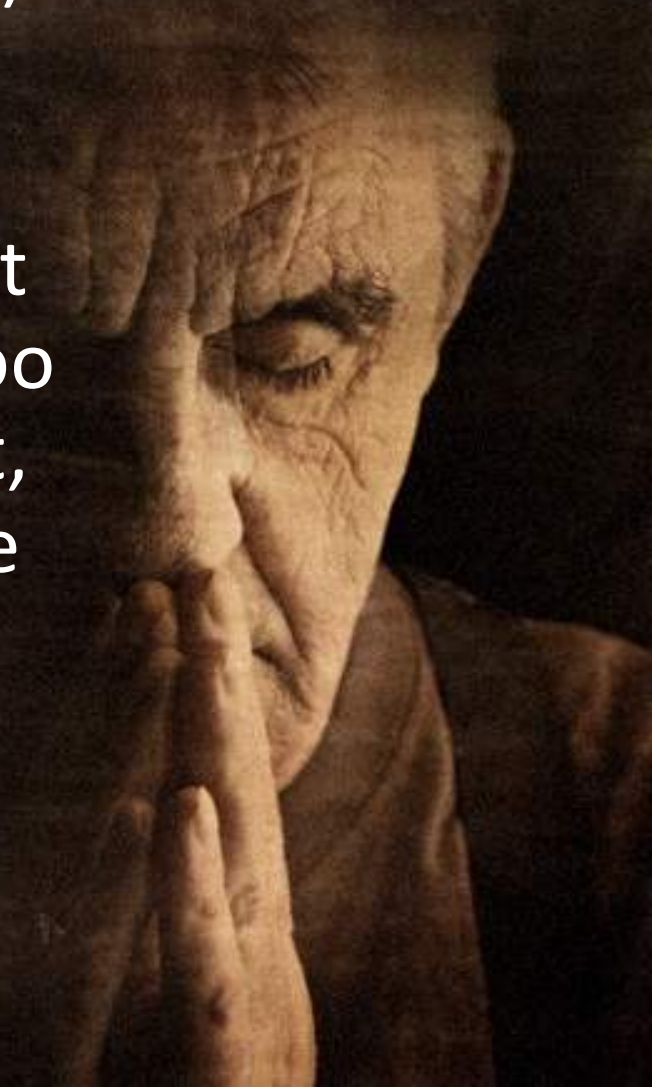
The Heart

So lets pause a minute and pull this together.

Our heart – Our mind (thoughts), emotions (feelings) and will (choices) is the inward framework of our worship.

What consumes our heart is the object of worship. It is a battle with our flesh to keep Jesus central. It is too easy to be distracted by work, trials, disappointment, and even good things. When things replace God, we fall into idolatry.

So our goal should be to come before God with a “whole” or united heart. Our heart should not be fragmented or divided.



The Heart – Psalm 119

Psalm 119:2

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the **whole heart!**

Psalm 119:10

With my **whole heart** I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

Psalm 119:34

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;
Indeed, I shall observe it with my **whole heart.**

Psalm 119:69

The proud have forged a lie against me,
But I will keep Your precepts with my **whole heart.**

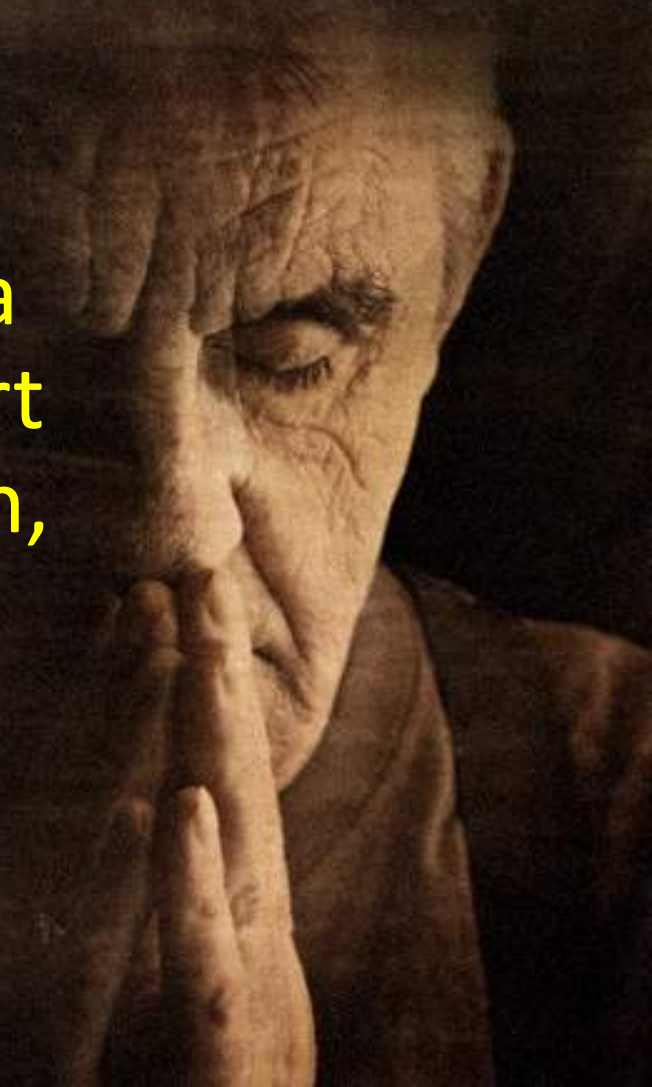


The Heart – Transformed by Jesus

Ezekiel speaks for God and tells the people if they remove the idols and the things that God hates...

Ezekiel 11:19

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,
²⁰ that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.



The Heart – Transformed by Jesus

God meets us part way. When we take a step towards Him, He transforms us a little.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



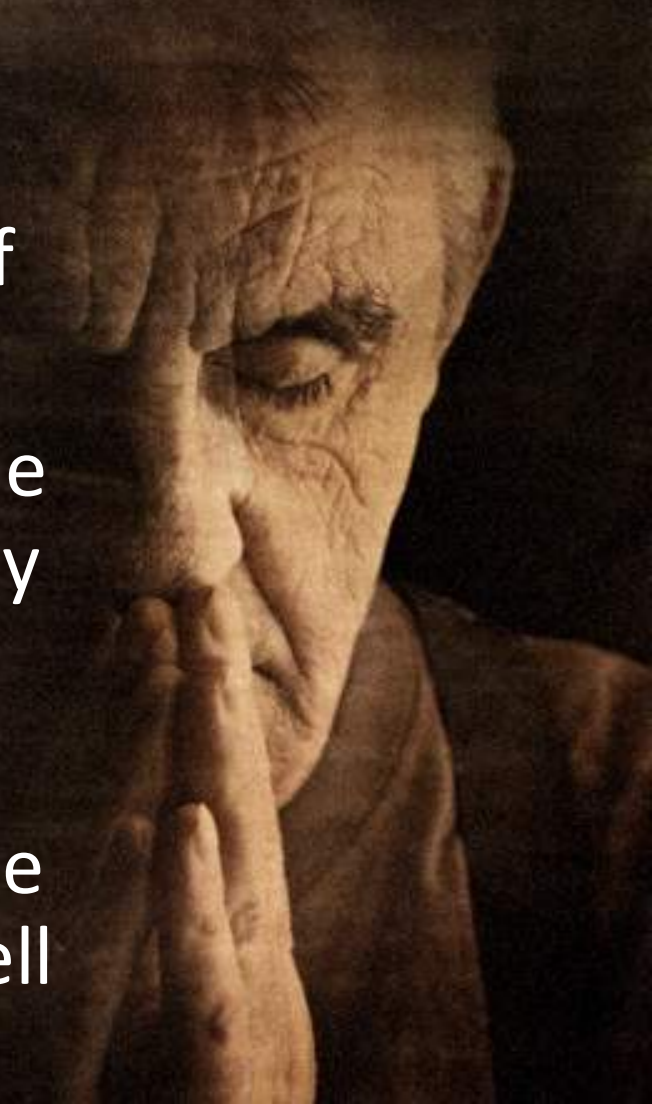
The Heart – Transformed by Jesus

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,
¹³ so that **He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness** before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

We can be deceived into thinking that we produce the change in our hearts. We cannot change, we can only obey. Look closely at these verses. We love one another so that Jesus may establish our hearts.

The word establish here means “to dwell” or “to place permanently”. We love others so that Jesus may dwell permanently in our hearts!



The Heart – The Heart of Praise

Psalm 86:11-13

Teach me Your way, O Lord;

I will walk in Your truth;

Unite my heart to fear Your name.

¹² I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,

And I will glorify Your name forevermore.

¹³ For great is Your mercy toward me,

And You have delivered my soul from the depths of
Sheol.

Look at this carefully. Look at the basis of David's
praise!



So What ...

Where is your heart?

As we sing this closing song, I ask that you set the things aside that are bothering you. Focus on Christ. All the things of this world are passing away. They are only dust, but the things of Christ are eternal.

Ask what is it that Jesus would like you to do today in His name?

Think about the great debt that rested on us because of our sin and how Jesus paid it all.

Let us worship Jesus in Words and Action with ALL of our hearts.

