

“How Weak Is Thine Heart”

Introduction. In Ezekiel 16, in the middle of a long section denouncing Judah, the Lord compares Judah to an adulterous woman. She blatantly played the harlot, having political “relations” with Assyria and Babylonia. Yet her desires were never satisfied because her heart was weak (vss. 28-32).

The heart is the seat and center of all physical and spiritual life. It is the inner self or mind, and therefore is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, intentions, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors (Proverbs 16:9; 23:19).

When we get ill, our body exhibits symptoms that can alert the doctor of the source of the problem. If the doctor only treated the symptoms the person would never get well because the virus, bacteria, or disease would remain. It is the same for those who are spiritually sick. We must diagnose the problem of the heart to cure our spiritual illnesses.

I. ***Wickedness Comes From The Heart***

- A. So said Jesus (Matthew 15:20-21).
- B. So said Peter (Acts 8:22).
- C. So said Paul (Romans 8:7-8).
- D. So said James (James 4:1; 1:12-15).

II. ***It Is Shown Outwardly Through Our Actions***

- A. Idolatry (Ezekiel 16:17-21; Isaiah 44:15; Colossians 3:5).
- B. Immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 6:13; 2 Peter 2:14).
- C. Testing God (Numbers 21:4-9; 1 Corinthians 10:6-11; 2 Peter 3:1-7).
- D. Complaining (Numbers 11:1-3, 4-6; Philippians 2:14).

III. ***How You Can Keep Your Heart Pure***

- A. By heeding the word (Psalm 17:4; 34:11; 71:17; Ephesians 4:30).
- B. By thinking and acting right (Psalm 24:3-5; 1 Peter 2:12).
- C. By drawing near to God (Hebrews 7:19; 10:22).
- D. By asking forgiveness (Acts 13:38; 1 John 1:9).

Conclusion. We have many examples in the Bible of people curing their heart problems. In Romans 6, the Roman Christians had once been slaves of sin but were freed by obeying from the heart that “form of doctrine.” In Acts 8, Simon needed to “pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee” (vs. 22). Felix, in Acts 24, and Agrippa, in Acts 26, refused to take the cure. In so doing, they had a “hard and impenitent heart” destined for God’s eternal wrath (Romans 2:5). What kind of heart will you have (Proverbs 4:23)?