**Jeremiah 17:5-18**

***“A Tell-Tale Heart”***

Introduction:

1. Everything turns on the heart. So, where is your heart?

2. Jeremiah 17:5-18 reveals 4 hearts:

Everything turns on the heart. So, where is your heart?

**I. THE TRUSTING HEART 17:5-8**

There are only two hearts:

***A. Two Characteristics***

 *“Cursed” (v. 5) “Blessed” (v. 7)*

1. *Cursed heart…*God is not for you. *Man is at enmity with God.* If God is against you…who can be for you?
2. *Blessed heart…*The root of *blessed* is *to kneel.* God is for you. God is on your side. If God is for you, who can stand against you?

 ***B. Two Confidences*** *“Trust”* both confidences have this as their core.

 *Trust* means: *To roll your burden upon…to rest your full weight upon…to take refuge in.*

1. The *cursed* trusts in man…*maketh flesh his arm…whose heart departs from the*

 *Lord.* God is against you.

 *\*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)* his philosophy summarized in one essay: *Self Reliance…*he tells them do not care for the poor, love their families or listen to preachers. *Insist on yourself…never imitate…Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind…Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.*

 *\**Where is your *Trust…your confidence?* God can’t bless the flesh! In other words, anyone who trusts in technology, science, economics, psychology, medicine, government, the military, the arts, or any other human endeavor will be woefully disappointed.

**2.** The *blessed v. 7 Who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is in the Lord.*

 *\*Trust* is used twice. *Who trusts in the Lord and whose (not hope) trust is in the*

 *Lord.* The pivotal word for *blessing* and *cursing* is *trust.* Where is your

 confidence, your hope? Do you rely on yourself most of the time or do you trust

 in God all of the time?

 \***Total trust in God brings life!**

 ***C. Two Conditions*** Water in the Middle East was essential and vital.

 **1.** Here is what it is like to trust in SELF 6

 \*Life dries up…like a shrub in the desert. It’s good for nothing.

 \*What a picture of a self-centered life. Is that your life?

 **2.** Here’s what it is like to trust in the Lord 8

 \*It’s dry all around, but you aren’t.

 \*The land SW of the Sea of Galilee, there is no vegetation without irrigation.

 Vegetation is sparse. Right in the middle of this wilderness is one of the most

 beautiful places on earth: Gan Hashlosha *Garden of Three (Springs).* The

 pools and waterfalls in the Garden are filled with deep, emerald pools continually

 refreshed by underground springs.

 \*The person who rests their full weight on God is like a tree planted in Gan

 Hashlosha. To know God is to be refreshed continually by His grace…like

 a tree watered by underground springs.

 ***D. Two Conclusions*** what they produce:

 **1. *Shrub…****shall not see when good comes…lives in a stony waste land…a salty*

 *land without inhabitants.*

1. ***Trees*…***spreads out her roots…is not effect by adversity…leaf shall be green…not anxious*

*though drought all around…in the year of drought, neither cease from yielding fruit!*

 **Which represents your life?**

Everything turns on the heart. So, where is your heart?

**II. THE TREACHEROUS HEART 17:9-11**

 ***A. Who Can Know The Heart? 9***

**1.** This is a picture of the total depravity of man…a tell-tale heart!

 **2.** The human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. *Above all things…nothing*

 *more wicked.* From a rotten inner core comes all sins…all conspiracies…all rapes…

 all murders… all lies come from the heart. We see it daily acted out before us on the

 news.

 **3.** Every human being has a tell-tale heart. **We don’t know how bad we really are!**

***B. Who Does Know the Heart? 10,11***

 *God Does!* The rhetorical question asked in v. 9 is now answered.

1. It is God who knows the whole truth about your heart. He deals justly.
2. The sand grouse hatches another bird’s eggs…so is he who gains unjustly. He is

 a spiritual fool. What is gained is lost. We think we have what we want. There is a loss, an emptiness. Riches are soon lost. The deceitful heart never gets it! **When you think you win you lose!**

Everything turns on the heart. So, where is your heart?

**III. THE TURNING HEART 17:12-14**

 ***A. The Search 12***

**1.** There is something inside that is looking for a place to worship…*a glorious high*

 *high throne…our refuge…our sanctuary.*

**2.** *Our place where man meets God and where God meets man.* There is a world-wide hunger as we see religions in every part of the globe. We try and fill that emptiness with everything but God.

***B. The Shame 13***

**1.** *Israel left…she forsook their fountain of living water.*

**2.** Life is written in the dust…*because they have forsaken…* Jesus said, *I am the*

 *water of life…drink of Me and you will never thirst again.*

 ***C. The Salvation 14***

 *The only thing a Tell-Tale heart can do is cry for mercy!*

1. We come to the end of ourselves and we cry out to God: *Heal me…Save me…For you are my praise!*
2. (Rom. 10:13) *For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
3. We cannot cure or change this heart. Only God can. The God who searches the heart is the God who can heal the heart. That is what happens when a sinner comes to Christ. A Christian is someone whose heart has been cured by Jesus Christ.
4. Why are so many Christians dry??? They have walked away from the Spring of Living Water. Flesh can never produce life or give life. It can only take!

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**IV. THE TRAILING HEART 17:15-18**

*Jeremiah, the Shepherd...followed God!* It won’t be easy. Life won’t always be fair.

 You may be misunderstood and mistreated.

***A. The Lord Is My Shepherd 16*** Quit trying to fake it!

**1.** He knows you.

 **2.** He knows what you say.

 **3.** He knows the motives of your heart.

 ***B. The Lord Is My Shelter 17*** Hide in Him!

**1.** When you are afraid and life is scary…*hide in Him.*

**2. Nothing touches you without first going through Him.**

 **3.** *The Lord* ***Is*** *my refuge.*

 ***C. The Lord Is My Surety 18*** Let Him take care of it!

 **1.** To attack God’s man was to attack God.

 **2.** *Let me not be put to shame…Let me not be dismayed.*

***When a tree is planted by the water, it realizes how totally dependent it is!***

***Whatever you are going through, draw from the Spring!***

***The cry of a Tell-Tale heart is “Heal Me!” “Save Me!”* Have you called?**