

Heart to Heart

“Above all else guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23).

I. **Repentance: Change your mind; change your life.**

- A. God makes it possible for every person to have a fresh start and succeed—even the vilest of people.
 - 1. King Ahab and Jezebel (I Kings 21:20-29)
 - 2. Peter and Paul (Acts 9:1-6, 13-19)
 - 3. Jesus and the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-38, 44-50)
 - 4. “Repent and believe the good news” (Mark 1:15-16)
 - 5. Why good news? Because Jesus came to give us a pure heart made alive by the Spirit (John 3:5-8).
- B. Your background makes no difference. Everyone can respond to God.
 - 1. Hezekiah’s dysfunctional father (II Chronicles 28:1-8, 19-22, 27)
 - 2. Hezekiah’s repentance toward God (II Chronicles 29:1-2, 6-10; 30:25-27; 31:20-21). “He sought his God and walked wholeheartedly, and so he prospered.”

II. **God tests us to see what’s in our hearts.**

- A. He tests us with adversity.
 - 1. Spreading our bad “letters” before the Lord and declaring God’s love-letter over our circumstances (II Kings 19:9-19).
 - 2. When our enemies attack us, they are attacking the Lord (II Kings 19:20-22, 25-28, 35-37).
- B. God tests our hearts with prosperity.
 - 1. Can we change God’s mind (*Hezekiah*, II Kings 20:1-11)?
 - 2. We live on the supernatural interventions of God (Isaiah 38:14-16).
 - 3. Pride of heart is something we have to guard against (II Chronicles 32:24-26, 30-31). “God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.”
 - 4. The opposite of pride of heart is joyous thanksgiving expressed and remembered over and over again!

III. **We are the people of the heart set free.**

- A. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).
- B. We are free to continually experience the love of the Father through the Holy Spirit inside us (Romans 8:14-16; Matthew 11:28-29).
 - 1. We are contemplative people. We really enjoy God’s presence.
 - 2. We are confident people. We release God’s goodness to the world.
 - 3. We are compassionate people (John 5:19-20).

*Mike Hudgins
October 27 & 28, 2018*