



**PLEASE  
SLOW  
DOWN**

# GOD IS AFTER YOUR HEART

*Sunday Morning, February 11, 2024*

1 Samuel 16:7 (Samuel is anointing the second king of Israel...Jesse brings his oldest son before Samuel and Samuel says this) – “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; **for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**”

**IN OTHER WORDS:** Man looks at actions...God looks at heart.

**BELOVED:** God is after your heart...not after your actions. Yes, I said what I said.

**You may answer one of two ways:**

- \* But actions are important. You've got to act right...do things right.
- \* So, does that mean we can do whatever we want to do...as long as our heart is right? You answered your own question.

**BELOVED:** The thing with actions is that they express what is in your heart. If your heart is bad...your actions will be bad. If your heart is good...your actions will be good.

That is why God is after your heart...because your heart doesn't lie...your actions can!

**ILLUSTRATION:** My wife and my children have my heart. I am immersed in them! How do I know?

There isn't anything that I wouldn't do for them.

They could ask me to do whatever...and I would immediately do it.

**EXAMPLE:** Text me and have be bring them lunch in the middle of a busy day...yep! Even if Ryne asked in Lexington...I am there! No questions asked.

Allyson will say, “We forgot to go shopping”, or “forgot my lunch”, or whatever...

- \* she doesn't need to give me a reason...
- \* you want something from me? You got it!

When God has your heart...it isn't a matter of “why does God want me to do this or that?”...it is simply **He has my heart and I will do it gladly.**

The reason so many people struggle with the “doing of the Bible” is because God doesn't really have their heart! He is simply an insurance provider that they are trying to pay for their insurance...by doing!

When God has your heart...actions follow...automatically!

## **Busyness**

**HERE IS THE ISSUE:** God is after your heart...but we often fill our lives up...our hearts up with SO MUCH STUFF. Busyness!

Our lives are filled with so much DO, DO, DO with stuff that we deem important...stuff that really has our heart.

If God has our heart...our top list of priorities should be HIM, HIM and more of HIM!

Once those have been accomplished...other stuff will automatically come.

**YOU SAY:** But I have so many responsibilities...my kids are so involved in stuff...what about all the other stuff...

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and ***all these things shall be added unto you.***”

***When God has your heart...the overflow will look like Him...  
and the manifestations will look like heaven!***

**HOWEVER:** We come to church...suppose to learn, to hear, to be fed, to love on Him. But we have an issue with busyness...with slowing down.

We call it **multi-tasking!** It is actually called busyness.

- \* Having your phone in your hand to catch up on your correspondence... emails...text messages.
- \* Having your thumb active...scrolling through social media to “catch up” on what everyone else is doing, what you’ve missed...why?
- \* Because you are too busy with family-time, work-time, extra things-time AND I can sit here and catch up with life things...
- \* WHEN it should be GOD TIME!

**BELOVED:** It is busyness!

***I can hear God saying,***

- \* “Could you not sit and listen and partake of the Living Word from God for ONE hour?”
- \* “Could you not pause your activities and the busyness of life for one hour?”
- \* “Could you not even STOP to hear what the Spirit has to say for one hour?” If you have an ear to hear...you should be hearing what the Spirit is saying!

**BELOVED:** What does that say about your heart if you can’t give the Word our undivided attention for one hour? Do you think that God really has your heart?

**LISTEN:** I am NOT judging! I am saying God wants your heart! He wants, in the middle of all your busy life, to have time prioritized for Him...so He can do and be in your life what He desires.

If the enemy can’t get me to do the wrong things...he’ll get me to over extend myself in the right things.

***Because busyness begets fatigue and fatigue begets unbelief.***

**BILL JOHNSON:** Busyness kills intimacy.

**BELOVED:** God wants intimacy.

**This is the Time**

God is calling us to His heart...and Him to our heart!

There is no greater time in history for the church to have the heart of God and God to have the heart of the church than today.

Mark 14:32-42 (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane) – turn in Bible

**REMEMBER:** Jesus had tried to get the disciples to understand that a time was coming where He would be killed. Paul said...no way (get the behind me satan – Mark 8:33ish).

So, Jesus brings His disciples to the garden to pray (James, John and Peter are brought closer). Jesus goes deep into the garden to pray (intense prayer)...

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? ***couldst not thou watch one hour?***

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

We have heard this passage time and time again...bringing up the importance of praying for one hour. It should be the least we could do.

**NOW:** That may be some of it...I am not going to dismiss that aspect of what Jesus said.

**HOWEVER:** I think Jesus was identifying an bigger issue...with all the warning that Jesus gave them... they were unaware of the time that they were standing in the middle of...the atmosphere...the situation.

They were in the middle of a time that they needed to be with the Father...intimately...essential...plugging into His courage...His power!

**YET:** They were worn to a frazzle...tired...take a nap! They were NOT aware of it...they missed it.

**QUESTION:** Would it be possible that Peter wouldn't have messed up so much if He had connected to the Father? Would he have been able to make a stand if He had grabbed the Father's heart?

**BELOVED:** We need to be more aware of the atmosphere around us...the times...what's going on in the world...in our world...in Morehead!

When we are HEART to HEART with the Father...it will be easier to pray, to worship, and to get in the Word.

**THINK ABOUT JESUS:** Jesus had all the important stuff...shouldn't He have kept doing and doing and doing...never stopping?

I mean He also had limited time on earth...3 and a half years of ministry.

**HOWEVER:** He constantly took time to stop, to rest, to pray, to connect to the Father...to have the Fathers heart and the Father have His.

John 21:25 – “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

**BELOVED:** If you want to be a better minister...slow down. If you want to be a better father/mother... slow down. If you want to be a better employee...slow down. Put first things first...get the Father's heart!

It isn't time you are lacking...it is time with Him that you're missing.

Ephesians 5:16 – “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

**(AMP)** – “Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.”

## **Choose the Important Thing**

Luke 10:38-42 (Good ole Mary and Martha)

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

**(AMP)** – thou are occupied and too busy!

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

There is nothing that you do every day...no matter how much you think you get done...that can take the place of sitting at His feet. Spending time with Him. Viewing His heart!

Even church stuff...mowing...vacuuming...cleaning...etc.

***Just slow down!***

***Just slow down!***

- \* **DAILY** slow down...put down your activities...even good stuff and spend some time with God.
- \* **AT CHURCH** slow down...put down your phones...slow your heart down...connect in praise...connect in the Word.

**THINK ABOUT IT:** Have you ever sat around a kitchen table with everyone on their phones...halfway listening to each other? Not a fun experience...how many times are things repeated before we actually hear what others are saying? That is what we are doing in church, too often.

- \* **FIRST THING** daily...make a tithe of your heart...give it to Him...slow down!

**THINK ON THIS:** Matthew 11:28 – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Slow down and come to Him...He will ease your stress...take your depression...alleviate your anxiety.

**HOWEVER:** Instead of spending time with the One who will take stuff off your plate (redeem your time), we avoid that time with Him...it becomes last in order, we fill that time with so many things that are ADDED to our plate!