

Coach House Church BEACONS

G O D S E E S T H E H E A R T

20TH JUNE 2020

1 Samuel 16:7 says this "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Over the last few weeks we have been working on the church. I have sat working on planning lessons or painting while Jamie and Andy go under the floor or in the ceiling to fix and update the church. This week, while they've been working, they have found that some lights have been wired incorrectly and then the mistakes have been hidden away with more bad wiring. The lights look like they work on the outside, but their insides are broken.

This is sometimes how we are as humans. We look like we're doing ok on the outside. We look like we're getting closer to how Jesus would want us to be to everyone else, but on the inside, our attitudes and our hearts aren't pointing in the right direction.

In Matthew, Jesus talks about the state of our hearts. He says "You heard that it was said to the people long ago, "You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement" But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgement."

Jesus takes sin further than the law. It's not about what is on the outside, it's about the attitude of your heart. We need to have the right attitude.

I'm not saying we shouldn't sometimes do things we don't feel like doing. We won't always feel like reading our bibles or praying or going to church. We should

still do those things. But we should be honest about how we feel and submit it to God so He can change our hearts to have the attitudes He wants from us. We need to be willing to let the Holy Spirit change our hearts. He won't change us without us being willing to change.

Over the last few weeks I have felt very annoyed about having to do normal chores. It just seems when life is so busy that it's such a burden to have to clean the house and clothes or cook. I get frustrated that I do these tasks and then before I know it, I have to do them again. But they need doing. So, I have to pray that I can battle with the attitude and ask God to change the way I feel about it. To be honest, when I remember to pray about it, it changes my mindset.

Attitudes are the hardest thing to change because they are so ingrained in us. They are developed over years and are based on a complex mixture of our past and our personality. The only way we can change the inside is by seeking God even when no one else is looking. Don't just seek Him when you can talk about it to others or when others around you are looking. Seek Him in the quiet, seek Him when you're alone. When you are by yourself and no one knows whether you are doing right or wrong, choose to do what is right. Choose to seek God.

Ephesians 4:22 – 27 says “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” It takes effort to put off our old attitudes, but it's so important that we do. We need to daily put on the right way of thinking by reading our bible and praying. We need to repeat this every single because as humans we are so quick to forget or get distracted.

We can also do physical things to improve our attitude. We can get enough sleep and eat and drink properly. We can listen to positive music and make sure we get exercise. Looking after our bodies goes a long way to improving our attitudes.

The inside will eventually affect the outside. Those lights that Jamie and Andy fixed weren't working exactly how they should because the insides were wrong. When I get angry about doing chores, that sometimes comes out as anger towards Jamie. Our attitudes on the inside will come out on the outside, sometimes when we least expect it.

Luke 6:43-45 says "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

Our hearts lead our actions so our attitudes need to be right.

The second thing this verse teaches us is that it's not about what others think of you. Society dismissed some of the greatest heroes in the bible. The verse I read at the beginning comes from the story of David, who was a simple shepherd boy. Samuel, the prophet had been sent to a man names Jesse's house to anoint a new king. Jesse brought out seven of his eight sons to see the prophet one by one. Each time God rejected them, even the strong looking ones. Jesse hadn't even bothered to call David in from the field because he assumed that David wasn't king material.

But God saw differently. He was looking for a man after his own heart. Not one that would act perfectly in every situation, but one that was seeking God and His will and one that would repent when the time came to do so. He was looking for someone humble enough to be under God's guidance. David's own family dismissed him as not worthy of even being looked at for the throne, but that's not what God saw and that's not what happened. David did become king.

Even Jesus was dismissed by the religious leaders of the day. The people of the world didn't think that Jesus was impressive enough to be the messiah. But He was. He was more than they imagined He could be. A simple carpenter that grew up in a backwater town that was born in an insignificant place was the saviour of the whole world.

Don't worry if you feel that everyone has written you off. Don't worry if you feel that you're not clever enough or pretty enough or confident enough to be used by God. God knows your value and what you can achieve with Him. Keep pressing on into Him and you will become all that He made you to be. We need to keep pressing on into God to correct our attitudes and to fulfil our potential. Don't compare yourself with those around you. What's on the outside isn't the most important, it's about what's in your heart.



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