

HIS HEART

EZRA 7:10; DAN 1:8; MATT 5:8;
OBA 1:3

Text:

Introduction:

1. PREPARED HEART - STAND, FAITHFUL, FIXED ON

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

2 Chron. 12:14

And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.

We have two different people who did two vastly different things when it came to the heart.

A. Ezra Prepared His Heart

1. A desire to know God's will.
2. A determination to do God's will.

Too many today are willing to do God's will if it forms to their will.

Too many today approach the doing of God's will based on the actions of others.

(Illustration: Well if others will join me or if there is no opposition I will do God's will)

Note the songwriter words to "I have Decided to Follow Jesus" - Though no one join me, still I will follow.

Too many have changed to song "Have thine own Way" to say this:

Have my own way Lord Have my own way. I am the potter molding the clay. I'm molding and making after my will. While you are waiting

B. Rehboam Prepared Not His Heart

1. His forsaking (2 Chron 12:1)
2. His forgery (2 Chron 12:10)
3. His failure (2 Chron 12:14)

2. PURPOSED HEART (DAN 1:8) - PRESERVE, REHEARSE, SHOW

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

A. Dedication - everything around them had changed except their hearts

B. Desire - not to defile themselves

Summed up with two words - Faith and Obedience

3. PURE HEART (MATT 5:8, 2 TIM 2:22)

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

2 Tim. 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

A. Development of a pure heart

Take inventory of my life to see if there are things that have been placed before or that are more important to me than God.

- Is it my job?
- Is it the fantasies of my thought life?
- Is it my computer?
- Is it the television, or music?
- Is it my wife, children, or another person?
- Is it sports?
- Is it a hobby of some sort?
- Is it my house or car?
- Or is it myself?

If I walked up to you and accused you being an adulterer or an adulteress, you would be ready to punch out my lights.

And yet how many of us are guilty of the worse kind of Spiritual adultery, putting something or someone ahead of God?

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

B. Delight of a pure heart - Matt 5:8

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

4. PRIDEFUL HEART - OBA 1:3

Obadiah 1:1-3

The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord God concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle. [2] Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

[3] The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

- A. Despised
- B. Deceived
- C. Destroyed

Proverbs 16:5

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:11-12

The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit. [12] Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 6:16-17

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: [17] A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Proverbs 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Proverbs 28:25

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

Proverbs 29:23

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 30:12-13

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. [13] There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.