As A Man Thinks In His Heart

Tony Mauck · Proverbs 23:6–8

INTRODUCTION

- The pervading, predominant theme that coincides with wisdom for living in the book of Proverbs has to do with a man's heart.
- It's the mind, it's the inner man that involves your thoughts, your judgments, your affections, what makes you tick, what you love.
- God's true measurement of you is who and what you are on the inside. What your mind is, what your heart is.

1 We Must Not Be Content With Mere Externals

- It's much easier to fall into the comfort of the external trappings of religion, the external actions of things that are right, but not embrace all that God has said about what is right.
- But what we fall into is a checklist kind of Christianity.
- They must be accompanied by right attitudes for those things to be meaningful.
- They honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.
- If you view others with contempt, no amount of religiosity is going to save us.

2 As He Thinks in His Heart, So He Is

Proverbs 23:6–8

- Here is a man who is engaged in hospitality, but who is clearly inhospitable in his heart.
- He wants other people to think he's hospitable. He's not that man. He's the man that he is on the inside.
- If we come here merely because we're commanded or expected to, but we'd rather really be doing something else. We don't have a heart for God.
- Effective worship is going to involve an investment of my mind and being in what we're doing.
- Look, that checked out heart, that's who you are.
- It looks like an act of encouragement, but it's really a very selfish thing.

3 The Heart Is More Deceitful Than All Else

Jeremiah 17:9–10

- Just because you were once good soil does not mean that you have not degenerated into thorny soil. And we ought to constantly be watching for that.
- The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick. Who can understand it?
- I search the heart, I test the mind, even to give each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.

- They still worship. They still sacrifice. They still pray. But it has become merely a religion of externals to them.
- They will take what they've done, and they will try to find a way to make it jive with the word of God to soothe their conscience.
- And they convince their hearts that it is so.

4 Allegiance and Loyalty, Not Merely Religious Activity

Hosea 6:1–6; 2 Chronicles 16:9

- A right response to Jesus involves allegiance and loyalty. Not merely religious activity.
- The bottom line of religion has been and always will be allegiance and loyalty. And that's more than just a once-a-week assembly, isn't it?
- For your loyalty is like a morning cloud. And like the dew which goes away early.
- For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice. And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- All the right words are not sufficient without a loyal heart.
- God wants us to be convinced that his way is best in everything.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're in this audience this morning and you've not chosen allegiance to the King, we provide an opportunity for you to make that declaration.

MY NOTES