Shepherding the Heart

Jonathan Banning · Matthew 12:33–35 · Series: **The Heart of Parenting**

INTRODUCTION

- It's possible as parents to give our kids everything we want to give them, everything they want, except for the one thing that they really need.
- The one thing that we need to give our kids as parents is we need to make sure we shepherd their hearts.
- The condition of your heart will always determine the quality of your character.

1 Hearts Are Transformed by the Gospel

Luke 8:15; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 12:2

- These are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart and hold it fast and bear fruit with perseverance.
- Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.
- The only one who can transform the hearts of your children is God.
- My first priority in life is to connect my child's heart to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Tell your kids how Jesus changed your life. Tell your kids who you'd be without Jesus.

2 Good Hearts Are Filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

- Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.
- What those people do with alcohol, you need to do with the message of God.
- We need to make sure that we fill them up with the gospel and with the teachings and doctrines as much as we possibly can.
- You cannot give them too much of the gospel. You cannot give them too much teaching about Jesus.
- I make the minimum possible investment when it comes to filling them up with the Spirit. That is backwards.

3 Good Hearts Are Undivided

Matthew 13:22

- The worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- What is the fate of the thorny ground soil? Not that it dies, but that it becomes unfruitful.
- The concern is this: that they would grow up and sit in a pew for the rest of their life, always showing up for church, yet never produce anything in the kingdom.
- As parents, it is our job to show our kids where the weeds are.

- As parents, we must make it clear to our kids that we will not let their lives and their hearts get too crowded.

4 Good Hearts Are Focused on Good Things

Philippians 4:8

- Part of shepherding a heart is taking ownership for the influences that are allowed into your children's life.
- We need to be careful who ascends into the pulpit of their heart and is allowed to preach to them every single day.
- As parents, it is our job to protect that pulpit. To make sure that they are getting influenced by good things.
- Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
- I need to make sure I'm not only eliminating the negative, but I'm pushing the positive.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're ready to stop living for yourself, if you see Jesus this morning and you want to become a child of God, we invite you to come to the front while we stand and while we sing.

MY NOTES