

Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



JEREMIAH

Need Wisdom? Don't Follow Your Heart!

(The Principle of Fallen Nature and Wise Choices)

Jeremiah 17:9-10

“Are you confused about a decision? Do you need wisdom when you don't know what to do? Well, just follow your heart and everything will be Okay.” Have you ever heard anyone say this before? Don't believe it! It's a lie from Hell itself! Cain followed his **Jealous Heart**...and it produced the first murderer in the human race. Lamech obeyed his **Covetous Heart**...and men became polygamists. When the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did what their **Lewd Hearts** desired...sexual perversion entered the world. King Saul's **Heart was Filled with Despair**...and he died disgracefully at his own hand. A **Lustful Heart** drove even the great King David to adultery and murder. And in Jeremiah's day, the nation of Judah followed their **Idolatrous Hearts**...and that whole generation died in foreign exile. No, my friend, don't follow your heart. *For even the Lord Himself has said, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick!”*

The heart represents the inner self...the center of human appetites, emotions and passions. Created with freedom of choice, Adam and Eve held the option of directing their hearts either toward or away from the purposes of God. *But when sin corrupted their souls, the human race lost their ability to choose God.* Enslaved to selfishness and sin, they constantly set their hearts on evil (*Gen. 6:5*). Even after redemption, the battle isn't over (*Rom. 7:14-24*). Though a person's spirit is born again, his soul is not! Forever the fallen nature of mankind must be dominated.

How then can you make wise decisions when faced with difficult dilemmas? The answer is surprisingly simple...believe God more than your heart! Study God's character and learn how Jesus dealt with life's issues. Read God's Word and spend time in His presence. His truth and wisdom will become your guide (*Hosea 14:9*). Train your senses to think as His thinks, knowing the end of a matter (*Heb. 5:14*). Seek godly counsel from seasoned eldership (*Heb. 13:17*). Don't let your heart operate from the fallen nature. It always leads you astray! It will even condemn you after you've been forgiven (*1 John 3:19-21*)! *Trust your heart ONLY when it reflects the true character and ways of God.*

Next: The Kingdom of God in Ezekiel...In Your Darkest Hour!

