

Examining One's Heart: Dec. 3, 2017

Outline from Ryan Engelberth

-Defining Sin- “Any failure to conform to God’s Law” & “to miss the mark”

a. In Action

- Eve then Adam Gen. 3:6-7
- David taking Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:2-4

b. Failure to Act

- Adam Genesis 3:7
- Israel refusing to enter the promised land Numbers 13 & 14
- Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10

c. Attitude

- Job questions God later repents
- Jonah gets angry at God
- Israel complaining Numbers 14:26-27

-Truth about sin

- Sin will **pursue** you (Gen 4:7)
- Sin will **disappoint** you (Hebrews 11:25)
- Sin will **trip you up** (Hebrews 12:1)
- Sin will **enslave** you (Romans 6)
- Sin will **expose** you (Numbers 32-23)

-Dangers and Escalation of Sin

a. It will suppress God

- Hebrews 3:13 (lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin)

b. We will impact more than yourself

- Family, friends, those around us with our testimonies
 - John 13:35 (Known by your love)
- Directly and indirectly
- Leaves the stench of death

c. Individuals will seek more sin, need more perverse ways to get the “high” they desire (Romans 1: 21-32)

- Sin is a slippery slope

d. You don't have forever to decide

- 'We have Grace and we have more time'
- 'When I am ready'
- God will not wait forever
 - God gave them up (repeated 3 times in Romans 1)
 - to impurity
 - to vile passions
 - to their debased minds
 - Samson Judges 16:20 (departed from him)
 - Proverbs 1:24-31
 - Matthew 7:21-23 (For I never knew you)

-Knowledge of Sin without excuse Romans 1:18-20

a. I turn from the truth

- Knowing right from wrong, it is inexcusable

b. God's Conscience is inside of us

- Feeling that He is watching everything we do
- Feeling the tug at your heart
- All man has knowledge given by God (19-20)

c. My Conscience is convicting us (Romans 1:19)

- Can not rely on our own conscience
 1. The more reliance on God, reading His word and praying leads to tenderness
 2. Straying away from God leads to a seared heart (1 Tim. 4:2)

d. My Creator convicts me

- Creation of this world proves God is real
- invisible attributes

Outline from Jim Lesko

Proverbs 14:9 *'Fools mock at making amends for sin'*

The world would discourage you from considering your heart, and turning from your sin.

Psalms 42:1 *'As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.'*

Can I honestly say that this is true about me? Does my soul pant for the Lord? If I am honest, I would have to say 'no...probably not.'

Isaiah 53:6 *'All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.'*

It is true that we have all sinned, and that we all need a saviour. But some of us have taken this as an excuse as we walk with the Lord (sometimes, or maybe often, without passion): It is a temptation to say 'well, we are all sinners... so I'm not that bad.'

Job 23:12 *'I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.'*

My life verse. But have I treasured His words more than my daily food?

Psalms 119:176 *'I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.'*

We are all individually accountable for straying. When we stand before the Lord, it will be individual accountability. We cannot say that we were simply with the others that strayed.

It is a gift from the Lord to be sought by Him. Pray to be sought.

Psalms 139:23-24 *'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.'*

He is the one who can truly examine our heart. And we should be open to what he tells us about it. It should be our prayer to have Him search us.

Ephesians 1:18 *'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...'*

It should be our prayer to have Him open the eyes of our heart. It is a gift from Him to have them opened.