

Do not be deceived by empty words

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Luke 6:45

Many people claim Jesus Christ as Lord, but few people live with Him on a daily basis. Many have taken up religious practice without receiving by faith the cornerstone of that faith, Jesus Christ.

Many will try to live good lives and believe they are entitled to be accepted into heaven, but have never repented from self interest in order to live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf.

Multitudes wear a cross as an ornament, but it is hard to find someone who has denied themselves and taken up their cross to follow the example of the One who died in our place so we can walk with Him

But we need not be deceived. Jesus tells us how we can judge a person’s character. What is on the inside—what the tree is really “made of”—will determine what kind of fruit it produces. Jesus says that the same is true of people.

In Luke 6:45, Jesus says that people can be judged by what they say and do because these things reveal what is really inside the person: *“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”* If you want to know what is on the inside of a person, you simply watch his actions; listen to what comes out of his mouth on a regular basis. This is not being judgmental; this is being realistic.

The mouth speaks out of the abundance—the overflow—of the heart.

We should not deceive ourselves by saying, “I think he really is a good person inside; he just has some bad habits” or “That’s just the way he talks, but he’s not really like that.” How many people fall in love and get married, thinking that the bad behaviour they have observed is only an anomaly? How many parents deceive themselves regarding the spiritual state of their children, thinking that they are true believers because of a childhood profession of faith, even though their lives demonstrate a heart of open rebellion?

Rather than always giving people “the benefit of the doubt,” we would do well to recognise the “fruit” we observe and respond accordingly.

Our heart reveals our inner disposition

We do what the heart desires

What we desire we cherish

What we cherish we want with us

What we cherish we pursue

What we cherish we give our lives to gain

What we cherish we promote

The question is: Do we love God with all our heart? And: Do we love our neighbour? *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* Matt 22:37

What the heart values most it serves most. It depends on whether it is for the world or the kingdom of God. How are we spending our days, are we seeking to please ourselves or God? Do we invest our time pursuing the things of the world, or are we seeking to walk with God to fulfill His desires?

Therefore: *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.* 1 John 2:15-16

Those who truly desire to know God will give all they possess to be with Him. *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matt 13:44-46

The heart reveals what's on our minds

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to

God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Rom 8:5,7-8

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Proverbs 23:7

And God sees the heart as if there is no distance between us

For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything.

1 John 3:20

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Gal 6:7-8

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matt 22:37

A new heart is needed through faith in Jesus Christ

In the beginning God created man to live exclusively for Him, true faith in Jesus Christ now makes this possible by receiving a new life born in the image of Christ, empowered by the Spirit of God to live for God.

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

Ezek 36:25-27

Once the heart has been changed through faith in Christ by the Spirit of God after the repentance of faith, the mind then needs to be transformed into the image of Christ, so that heart and mind are in agreement with God. *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Rom 12:2

Jesus knows what's in our heart

And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us.

Acts 15:8

He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man. John 2:25

And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" Luke 9:23-25

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Matt 7:21-23

The life of faith motives the heart by the love of Christ

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died. 2 Cor 5:14

But: if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:13

The soul of men shall hope under the shadow of Thy wings; they shall be made drunk with the fullness of Thy house; and of the torrents of Thy pleasures Thou wilt give them to drink; for in Thee is the Fountain of Life, and in Thy Light shall we see the light? Give me a man in love: he knows what I mean. Give me one who yearns; give me one who is hungry; give me one far away in this desert, who is thirsty and sighs for the spring of the Eternal country. Give me that sort of man: he knows what I mean. But if I speak to a cold man, he just does not know what I am talking about.

Saint Augustine