

One Heart Devotion

Jeremiah 32:36 – 41

I. Intro

- A. Continuing look at basic Christian doctrine – God’s Word, One Way to God through Jesus Christ, God must increase and we must decrease, all centered on number one
- B. Today, one devotion; Matthew 6:21 (ESV)
21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- C. In many states, recent laws regarding texting and driving; studies proving that texting & driving can be even more dangerous than driving under the influence; distraction
- D. Same in our relationship with Christ, there many things we encounter everyday that become distractions for us in growing in that relationship; one of Satan’s common tools against followers of Christ is to lure us into a divided devotion to God
- E. **READ Jeremiah 32:36 – 41**

II. Single/Exclusive Devotion

- A. One way Satan tempted Christ in the wilderness, promising Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would give up His undivided allegiance to God and worship him; Jesus refused, used scripture as His weapon of defense saying, *Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only* – didn’t say worship God also
- B. One of the top 10 commandments God gave Moses – *You shall have no other gods before me*
- C. Goes on to clarify this command: Exodus 20:5-6 (ESV)
5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,
6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- D. Just like calling for a reservation to stay at a motel, or eat at a fancy restaurant, God has called to us for a reservation – to reserve our lives completely/exclusively for Him – a single heart of unobstructed devotion
- E. When Solomon completed the temple, he charged God’s people with these words: 1 Kings 8:61 (ESV)
61 Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”
- F. **Question:** Why would God require this level of commitment without any room for leeway? Does He crave our constant attention? Is God lonely?

- i. **Answer 1:** [SLIDE] Because He is the ultimate supreme being of all the universe, galaxies, earth and heaven; He alone deserves and is worthy of our highest devotion
 - ii. **Answer 2:** [SLIDE] Because He has our best interest in mind; **v. 39** – *that they may fear me forever, for their own good, and the good of their children after them*
- G. Doesn't require our sole attention/affection because He's egotistical, but because He is God, plain and simple
- H. Jesus asked what the most single important of all God's commands was: **Mark 12:30 (ESV)**
- 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind and with **all** your strength.' (**Question: How much of heart, soul, mind, strength?**); All means All and that's all All means

III. Benefits/Reward of One Heart Devotion

- A. What we can expect from giving the Lord our complete/total/undivided devotion
- B. **1** – [SLIDE] Deep Sense of Purpose
 - i. As believers/followers of Christ we find our purpose for life when we're being used by God
 - ii. Allowing life's worries, riches and material possessions, and earthly pleasures to divide our attention/devotion ultimately we end up spiritually "choked" by all the other distractions
 - iii. Jesus uses a real-life analogy to illustrate – planting seeds (God's Word) and some seed falling on a concrete path, some on rocky place, some among thorns, some on good soil; among the thorns - **Luke 8:14 (ESV)**

14 ... are those who hear [word of God], but as they go on their way [go about living their lives] they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. (They never grow up spiritually, they're still spiritual babies)
- C. **2** – [SLIDE] Stability
 - i. **James 1:6-8 (ESV)**

6 ... the [person] who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, **unstable in all his ways.**
 - ii. God didn't design us to be able to have two, or more, "masters"; divided devotions ultimately lead to confusion, being "out of sync" and disoriented in every area of our life

iii. **“The Solid Rock” lyrics: *On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand***

iv. **Isaiah 26:3-4 (ESV)**

3 *[We're kept] in perfect peace [when our] mind is stayed on [God], because [we] trusts in [Him].*

4 Trust in the LORD forever, for **the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.**

v. **Game of golf, proper etiquette when a player is getting ready to hit the golf ball – be quiet; golfer tunes out any kind of distraction and focuses on striking the ball correctly, aiming the ball towards the desired destination – focused on one thing, a good shot**

vi. **God knows in order for us to be spiritually successful in this life we have to be intensely focused on one thing – God**

D. 3 – [SLIDE] Ability To Stand Strong

i. **Most of the time, the greatest obstacle to being successful in this spiritual battle we fight everyday is found inside of us – a divided heart**

ii. **God's words to Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land: Deuteronomy 30:17-18 (ESV)**

17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,

18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

iii. **God has told us that to successfully fight this spiritual battle we must have hearts singularly devoted to Him**

iv. **Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)**

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

v. **Like other areas of our spiritual lives, God does for us what we cannot do on our own if we only ask with a genuine heart**

vi. **As King David prayed: Psalm 86:11 (ESV)**

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; **unite my heart** to fear your name.

IV. Close

A. Promise God gave Jeremiah still holds true for us today; (v. 39) *I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever ...*

B. Question: As God becomes greater in your life and you become less, there comes a greater challenge we all face each and every single day in our lives – will we allow ourselves to be devotionally divided/distracted/disoriented?

C. Question: Or, will we choose a greater depth of living for God with an undivided – **One Heart Devotion?**