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“The Heart of the Problem”  
Matthew 6:19-24

Introduction:

We live in a culture filled with division and violence. This violence expresses itself in so many ways from domestic violence to gang violence to racial violence.

We have tried many things to stop the violence – from educational efforts to more laws. All of which seem to fail. We simply cannot get to the heart of the problem ... because the heart of the problem is exactly that, a problem with our hearts.

We need a new heart ... a heart transplant.

I. Treasure – Matthew 6:19-21

- A. Greek Word Meaning To Deposit or Put Into
- B. Noun – Wealth, Possessions, Family, Status
- C. Verb – To Prize, Value, Appreciate or Cherish

II. A View of The Heart

- A. Hebrew Word “Lev”
- B. Physical: 1 Samuel 25:37
- C. Place of Thinking: Proverbs 4:3-7 / Ecclesiastes 7:25
- D. Center of Emotion: John 14:7
- E. Location of Desires and Choices:  
Proverbs 6:25 / Psalms 10:3; 35:25 / Romans 10:1
- F. The Problem:  
Matthew 15:19 / James 4:1-3 / Jeremiah 17:9-10 / Proverbs 14:12-16

G. The Solution: Ezekiel 36:26 / Hebrews 8:10

H. The “Process” – The Gospel:  
Romans 3:23 / John 3:16-18 / Romans 4:25 / Romans 10:9-11

III. A New Heart

- A. “Physical” - John 14:15 / James 1:22 / Proverbs 4:23
- B. “Thinking” - Romans 12:2 / Philippians 4:8 / Psalms 119:10-12  
Proverbs 3:5-6
- C. “Emotions” - Deuteronomy 31:6 / Isaiah 41:3 / Ephesians 4:26-27  
Mark 12:30-31
- D. “Desires and Choices” - Matthew 6:33 / Psalms 37:4

Conclusion:

What do you treasure most? What we treasure most dictates how we think, feel and act.

Jesus said you cannot serve two masters – Matthew 6:24.

Who do you choose to serve, God or self?