

# REACH OUT AND TOUCH PRISON MINISTRY

## BIBLE STUDY - LESSON #4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D.# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLEAN HEART

#### The Heart:

**MEMORY VERSE:** Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me. (Ps 51:7)

- 1) Describe/Explain David's Prayer in the following Psalms?

Psalm 139:23, 24: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 51:10: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 19:14: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) What does Jesus teach about the heart in Mark 7:21?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Read the following Scriptures. Proverbs 16:5; Proverbs 28:25; Psalm 101:5.

What should we **not** have in our heart? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Explain What does 1 Sam 16:7 teaches us: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) The Heart Affects Our Character: What kind of heart is spoken of in:  
Psalm 131: 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs. 26:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Psalm 24:4 \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 11:29 \_\_\_\_\_

6) The Heart Controls Our Conduct/Behavior: Read Genesis 27:41 and tell briefly what happened. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) The Heart Controls Our Conversation. How? (Luke 6:43-45) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) The Heart Controls our Walk With God. The following Scriptures tells us to:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Him with our whole heart (Mark 12:30) \_\_\_\_\_ Him with our whole heart (Ps 119:2)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Him with our whole heart (1 Kings 14:8) \_\_\_\_\_ Him with our whole heart (Acts 8:37)

9) The Heart Controls Our Worship of God. Explain Matthews 15:8, 9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) The Heart Controls Where We Will Spend Eternity. Write Matthew 5:8.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any questions or struggles that you have that you would like to share with us to pray for you? Whatever is shared with us will be kept in strict confidence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE ATTACHED OR MAIL TO:**  
**REACH OUT AND TOUCH PRISON MINISTRY, P.O. Box 120249, ST. ALBANS, NY 11412**

# REACH OUT AND TOUCH PRISON MINISTRY

## BIBLE STUDY - LESSON #4

### THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLEAN HEART

"Heart" occurs over one thousand times in the Bible, making it the most common term referring to man in the Scripture. It reveals who a person really is and what they do physically (conduct) emotionally (how they feel)-intellectually, (how they think) and morally (right or wrong actions).

#### **The Heart Is The Center of Hidden Emotional-Intellectual-Moral Activity.**

"Man looks at the outward appearance, " says Samuel, "but the lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). The king's heart is unsearchable to humankind (Prov 25:3), but the Lord searches all hearts to reward all according to their conduct (Jer 17:10). In the time of judgment God will expose the hidden counsels of the heart (1 Cor 4:5).

Jesus says that the heart's secrets are exposed by the mouth, even as a tree's fruit discloses its nature (Matt 12:33-34). "A wise man's heart guides his mouth," says Solomon (Prov 16:23). Most important, the mouth confesses what the heart trusts (Rom 10:9; and. Deut 30:14).

#### **The heart's reasoning, as well as its feeling, depends on its moral condition.**

Jesus said that "from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts" (Mark 7:21). Because the human heart is deceitful above all things (Jer 17:9) and folly is found up in the heart of a child (Prov 22:15), the Spirit of God must give man a new heart (Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:26) through faith that purifies it (Acts 15:9; and Eph 3:17).

***The Heart's Emotional Functions.*** The Lord, who knows our hearts (Luke 16:15), experiences its full range of emotions: for example, its joy (Deut 28:47; 1 Sam 2:1; Prov 15:15) and its sorrow (1 Sam 1:8); its raging (2 Kings 6:11) and its peace (Col 3:15); its feeling troubled (John 14:1) and its rejoicing (1 Sam 2:1; Psalm 104:15); its love (Rom 5:5; 1 Peter 1:22) and its selfish ambition (James 3:14); its modes of doubts (Mark 11:23) and of fear (Gen 42:28) and its mode of trusting (Prov 3:5); when it rises up in repulsive pride (Deut 8:14) or, as in the case of Jesus, is lowly and humble (Matt 11:29); and when one loses heart (Heb 12:3) or takes heart (John 16:33).

**The emotional state of the heart affects the rest of a person:** "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit" (Prov 15:13); "a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (17:22).

**The heart also wishes and desires.** The father warns his son against coveting the adulteress's beauty (Prov 6:25) and against envying sinners in his heart (Prov 23:17). Above all else the heart of a saint seeks God (Psalm 119:2,10). Believers set it on things above (Col 3:1). This is effected, says Jesus, by putting your treasures in heaven, for "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt 6:21). If we look for God with all our heart, Moses promises we will find him (Deut 4:28-29).

**The Heart's Intellectual-Spiritual Functions.** The heart thinks (Matt 9:4; Mark 2:8), remembers, reflects, and meditates (Psalm 77:5-6; Luke 2:19).

More specifically, as the eyes were meant to see and the ears to hear, the heart is meant to understand, to discern, to give insight. Understanding cannot be separated from morals. Isaiah was commissioned: "Make the heart of this people calloused; ... otherwise they might ... understand with their hearts" (Isa 6:10). Pharaoh hardened his heart lest he hear Moses and gain insight about the Lord (Exod 8:15), and the Lord hardened it irrevocably (7:13; 9:12). Paul says of the perverse, their foolish hearts were darkened (Rom 1:21); they could not see the light of moral truth. The hearts of saints, however, are enlightened (2 Col 4:6; Eph 1:18).

As the mouth reveals what is the heart, the ear determines what goes into it. The father tells his son to "store up my commands within you"; he then adds: by "turning your ear to wisdom, and you will incline your heart to understanding" (Prov 2:2). When Moses says, "these commandments ... are to be upon your hearts" (Deut 6:6), he commands his hearers to remain conscious of them.

**The heart needs to be educated by filling it with God's Word** (Prov 22:17-18). In that way a person will grow in favor and good name (Prov. 3:3-4) and be safeguarded against sin (Psalm 119:11).

**KEEP THE STUDY SHEET AND RETURN ONLY THE LESSON SHEET**