

The Story of Jesus: The Heart

(Lesson 55)

Introduction:

1. According to 2 Peter 3:18, growing in the knowledge of Christ is an important spiritual activity.
2. To achieve this growth we must search the Scriptures (John 5:39).
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on the Lord's teaching concerning "the heart" [the inner part of us that is the center of our thoughts, our feelings, and our affections].

Discussion:

I. THE LORD'S TEACHING IN MATTHEW

- A. Jesus taught in the Beatitudes that a special blessing is in store for those who are pure in heart (5:8).
- B. Adultery may be committed in the heart (5:27-28).
- C. The location of a person's treasure is where his heart will be (6:19-21).
- D. A person's words are an indication of his heart's condition (12:34-37).
- E. The heart is to be involved in forgiveness (18:35).
- F. God is to be loved with all the heart (22:35-38).

II. THE LORD'S TEACHING IN MARK

- A. Sin originates in the heart (7:20-23).
- B. Jesus does not approve of "hardness of heart" (16:14).

III. THE LORD'S TEACHING IN LUKE

- A. To hear God's Word properly a person must have "an honest and good heart" (8:15, 18a).
- B. God knows the condition of our hearts (16:15).

IV. THE LORD'S TEACHING IN JOHN

- A. A hard heart prevents belief (12:37-41; Isaiah 6:9-10).
- B. Jesus provides help for the troubled heart (14:1, 27).