

The Heart of the Matter
Message #3 – Heart Dedication
Mark 12:28-34

One of the major themes of the Bible is the subject of the heart.

The heart represents the true you. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life”, Proverbs 4:23.

1. The Lawyer’s Question (28)

Matthew Calls Him a Lawyer

- **The question represented their _____ of scripture**

They spent countless hours establishing divisions and rankings of these laws.

They Honored the Scripture but Despised the _____

2. The Lord’s Answer (29-31)

Jesus Quoted from the Shema

The Shema comprises the texts of Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 11:13-21 and Numbers 15:37-41. This was the most popular, most quoted and most copied scripture passages in Judaism.

- **Genuine _____ for God comes from the heart**

This is a love of decision and action not primarily emotion. True love for God comes from our entire person.

Love for God That Comes From the Heart Is Expressed with a _____ Dedication

- **Jesus confirmed that God has always demanded heart _____**

Deuteronomy 6:4-7, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength..”

Deuteronomy 10:12-14, “to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments..”

Joshua 22:5, “to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Psalms 86:12, “I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.”

Internal Reality Vs. External _____

3. The Lawyer’s Response (32-33)

A Sincere Affirmation

- **He recognized that morality was more important than _____**

Psalms 51:16-17, “...The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise.”

Most of His Fellow Religious Leaders Did Not _____

- **They accepted man’s tradition to be _____ with God’s truth**

Mark 7:6-7, “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men’.”

_____ **Had Replaced Heartfelt Obedience**

- **They exchanged the truth of God’s Word for the _____ of men**

Mark 7:8-10,13 “For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men...making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.”

Mindless _____ Had Replaced Heartfelt Spirituality

4. The Lord’s Reply (34)

The Scribe Was Close To Entering The Kingdom

- **The only religious activity that God _____ comes from a dedicated heart**

Joshua 24:23, "...incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel."

1 Chronicles 22:19, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God."

Daniel 1:8, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies...."

The Evidence of a Dedicated Heart is a _____ Life

Psalm 24:3-4, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart."