



Handout September 15, 2023

Change My Heart - Psalm 51

Welcome back and here we go!

Let's talk about a change of heart! What does that even mean? Is it "turning over a new leaf"? Can I have a change of heart? Is it something God does?

"Change of Heart" --- a changing from one policy or point of view to virtually its exact opposite.

The answer is both: God can change our heart, but we must agree!

Psalm 51

I think most Christians are familiar with the David and Bathsheba story --- the reason David wrote *Psalm 51*. David had committed the "great sin" and was found out...

1. Getting _____ will change your _____!

But will it change your heart?

David said "*create in me a clean heart...*".

The real question is

2. How is _____?

This may be a funny fill-in --- a question, rather than an answer, but what are the signs of a hardened heart?

- Lack of ability to perceive, remember, or grasp events or ideas coming from God.
- Insensitivity to sin, sinfulness
- Failure to follow God's commands
- Lack of empathy
- Self-centeredness

3. God can _____ any _____!

1 Samuel 10:9-13

Here we see the story of Saul! God changed his heart. You would think that that would make all the difference --- wouldn't you? Yet...

1 Samuel 13:7-14

God gave him a new heart, yet he still chose to disobey! Hmmm.... sounds suspiciously like you --- oops, I mean ME!

We get all these second chances and yet, there we go.... But for the grace of God.

What is it about your life that needs to change? Where do you need a heart change?

“Change my heart O God, make it ever true”.

The scripture --- the lyrics.

When are our hearts not true? Where do you need a heart change?

For Saul -- a heart change wasn't enough.

For David --- having a heart after God's own, didn't prevent him from sinning. Yet...

1 Samuel 16:7 'But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

God is looking at your heart. What does He see?

Does He see *a sick spiritual heart? Broken heart --- fearful heart --- angry heart --- hopeless heart --- hard heart --- numb or checked-out heart?* They say these are stages of a *sick spiritual heart*. Are you in there?

Matthew 15:16-19 'So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.'

4. Your _____ will _____ on you!

If you listen to people, you can usually discover their symptoms. Some people hide better than others, but they can usually be pegged as phonies!

We all have struggles. We all have areas we could work on. The question is --- what are the signs of a changed heart?

Ezekiel 11:18-21, 36:24-31

5. God _____ and _____ give you a _____ heart!

- The first sign is a new or renewed interest in the Word.
- Next, you will be ready and willing to forgive.
- You will stop being judgmental.
- You will desire fellowship.
- You will make time for God.

If you don't see these things, you may have a heart that is more interested in what the world offers.

Sing: "Change My Heart".

Prayer.