

Beyond The Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Having a Good Heart (Growing Deeper; a series on Romans 1:21 - Part 6)

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

"Have a Good Heart "

"God, purify me. Take out the things that shouldn't be and show me more of your truth. Break my heart for what breaks yours. Strengthen me in the times where the world pushes against me. Give me knowledge of your truth, and wisdom to handle the things that I face daily. I live to honor you and to praise you. Thank you Lord, amen"

Key Truths & Applications

Romans 1:21 talks about four things that people did to walk away from God. They didn't glorify Him as God, they were not thankful, they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. If we take these steps and put them in reverse, we get a roadmap for growing closer to God.

1. Glorify God (minimize the things that are not a part of the kingdom of God)
2. Be thankful
3. Recognize the power of our imagination (meditate on God's word)
4. **Have a good heart**

Our hearts are either moving towards God or away from him. As we read Mark 4 it talks about the parable of the sower and the seed. The soil that it talks about is our heart and the seed is the word of God. When it comes to planting the word in our hearts or growing spiritually, we can't rush and cheat the process. If we plant the word of God and remain consistent, our faith will grow. In the same way, if we are planting lust, greed, or jealousy, that will automatically grow too. When things like these grow, and we chase after the deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things, they cause God's word to be unfruitful in our lives.

The effectiveness of the parable is based on the condition of our heart. This means that the same word could be planted in two different hearts and yield two different results.

We were called and created to be a part of the kingdom of God, which doesn't agree with the kingdom of this world. The Bible tells us that we are called to suffer for doing what is right, and

many times that is what we run into when going against what the world says is true. Living for the kingdom can be uncomfortable, like swimming upstream against the current of culture, but it gets easier to obey the Holy Spirit's leading the more we do it.

When we obey the Holy Spirit:

- Our hearts become more tender.
- His peace is ours and we can let it rule in our hearts.
- It gets easier and easier to hear God.

Practical:

Step one for us this week is sowing into our hearts and being mindful of what we are planting.

- This looks like reading the word, filling our minds with things that line up with the kingdom of God, and keeping ourselves from falling because of the world's temptation.
- We can ask ourselves, "What fruit do we see in our lives that shouldn't be there, and what have we planted that may have caused it to grow?"

Key Verses:

- Romans 1:21, 8:14
- Psalm 42:7
- Matthew 12:33, 5:10-12
- Mark 4:1-20
- Genesis 3:4-5
- Luke 8:15
- Hosea 4:11
- 1 Peter 2:21
- Hebrews 10:36-38, 11:24-26
- 2 Chronicles 12:14

Declarations

"I was created to be a part of the Kingdom of God, not the kingdom of the world. I was designed to glorify God. I will remain obedient to the Holy Spirit and continue to look for ways to plant in my heart the things that cause good fruit. I will not be swayed by the desires of the culture around me and I will continue to press into what God has for me, in Jesus' name."

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

Have A Good Heart

Psalm 42:7 ESV

Deep calls to deep...

Romans 1:21 KJV

...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matthew 12:33 NKJV

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad...

Mark 4:2-10 &13 NKJV

Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them...And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

Mark 4:14-15 NKJV

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Mark 4:26-29 NKJV

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in

the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:15-20 NKJV

And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

Luke 8:15 NKJV

But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

Mark 4:11 NKJV

And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables...”

Mark 4:16-17 NKJV

These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

Mark 4:17 ESV

...but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

Matthew 13:21 NKJV

...because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

1 Peter 2:20-21 NKJV

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called...

Matthew 5:10-12 NKJV

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against

you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mark 4:18-19 NKJV

Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Hebrews 11:24-26 NKJV

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Revelation 22:12 NKJV

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me..."

Mark 4:20 NKJV

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Luke 8:15 NKJV

...having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Hebrews 10:36-38 NKJV

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

2 Chronicles 12:14 NKJV

And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.

Romans 8:14 NKJV

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

John 12:28-30 NKJV

Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.