Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Human Being: The Heart

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Mark 7:14–23

Theme: Set your heart on the Lord and find your life in him.

Introduction: The Lindsey Clancy trial exposed the effects of Therapeutic Psychology in a number of ways. At its core, the trial was a question about *motive*: What determined her behavior? While the medications and post-partum depression may have *influenced* her behavior, they were not ultimately *determinative*. This case was a microcosm of the greater societal failure to rightly understand human nature. We must ask ourselves who's account of human motivation is deeper: Therapeutic Psychology, or Scripture? While Therapeutic Psychology holds a monopoly on how people understand themselves, their problems, and how to solve them, the Scriptures account for the entirety of the human (physical and immaterial). It is this fully formed understanding that sheds light on human motivation, which the Bible refers to as the heart.

A biblical theology of man must think about the heart carefully:

1. The heart of the matter

- There is a crucial difference between the biblical and the therapeutic view of the inner life. The therapeutic view denies the authority of any external source, while the biblical view holds that authority is entirely external.
- In Mark 7:14–23, Jesus taught that behavior flows from the loves and desires of an active heart.
- We always do what we most want to do; behavior reveals loves.

2. How the heart matters

- Our understanding of the heart matters because diagnosis determines treatment.
- If a therapist denies (a) the reality of the soul, (b) the reality of our covenantal relationship with God, or (c) the revelation of God in Scripture, then their assement of what is right and wrong is skewed.

3. The heart and emotions

- The word "emotions" did not appear in psychology until the 1800s, and it replaced more accurate ways of speaking ("passions" and "affections").
- Many people think of emotions as morally disengaged, bodily, non-cognitive, and involuntary feelings. This is an unbibilical view of emotions.
- Emotions are the complex, whole-person (body and soul) responses of perceived moral judgments to news concerning someone or something we value.

Questions:

1. Think of a recent example in which you were surprised by/disappointed in your behavior. How did those behaviors reveal your loves?
2. Consider the definition of emotions below. What stands out to you from the definition? How does it correct some of your thinking on emotions?
    a. "Emotions are the complex, whole-person (body and soul) responses of perceived moral judgments to news concerning someone or something we value."

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