



# It's All About The Heart

Week of November 1, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

### Read Matthew 7:15-20

God gives us a window through which to see others, and a mirror in which to see ourselves. We can look through the window at people, even Christians, who often act out of self interest rather than in the best interests of Jesus. We should listen and be careful that what is being said is coming from the right place. And, we must do this without judgment or condemnation. We also need to look in the mirror to see where our own heart is. Our love for Jesus must live deep inside our hearts and also go beyond what we project to the world. We must ask, "What is my heart doing with God right now?" We must look closely at our thoughts and our time to determine what we are holding most dear in our lives. Then we will know if we are truly pursuing God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

## Pray

Thank you Father for being a faithful and loving God. You know what is in my heart, so there is no sense in hiding from you. Appearances do not matter to you, and I pray that you would help me to let appearances no longer matter to me either. Make known to me places where my heart may be seeking in self-interest rather than in the best interest of Jesus. Help me to know you more, love you more and reveal you more to others.

## Getting Started

- Can you think of a time when you met someone and judged that person quickly only to find out later that he or she wasn't at all what he or she seemed? Please share your story.
- In 1517 Martin Luther said, "A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing." What does it mean for a religion to give, cost, and suffer something? Is this statement still relevant today?

## Listening Deeply

1. Do you find yourself very critical of a pastor, teacher, friend, family member or someone who may have some influence over your life? Is there something you can still learn from that person? What might that be?
2. Read Matthew 22:37-39. Are some neighbors easier to love than others? Do you have a particular neighbor, co-worker, friend, or acquaintance whom you could love more? What would you have to give up to love that person more?
3. "What's lived is what's loved." What do you spend most of your time doing and/or thinking about? Is this how you want to spend your time, or is life just happening to you? How might you get how you WANT to spend your time more lined up with how you DO spend your time?
4. What is the greatest desire in your heart? What do you think is God's greatest desire he has placed in your heart? Are they the same? Why or why not?
5. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Is there an Eliab in your life? Is there someone who you compare yourself to when you probably shouldn't?
6. Sometimes we get caught up in trying to make ourselves happy and attempting to create heaven here on earth. What do you do to make yourself happy? Do you think this is something aligned with what God wants for you? And how would your life look different if heart, and not appearance, was really all that mattered?

## Living Wide in Jesus

This world seems endlessly caught up in appearances. Let's collectively decide to focus on the heart of ourselves and others instead and see what God will do. So many feelings of shame, guilt and anger are generated from the need to appear perfect or right or valuable when in fact, we are all of those things in God's eyes. Once we stop to think about that and focus, why would we want to turn our attention anywhere but to seeking God's heart? However, we are human and not letting the world distract us requires continually checking in with God to get back on track. Pastor Drew provided us with a diagnostic tool to help us see where we are with God. Let's try it and ask ourselves daily, "What is my heart doing with God right now?"