

“Heart Condition”

Matt. 13:3-9

Introduction

- I. Every accountable human being has a “heart condition”.
- II. It matters not how young or old the accountable person is.
- III. I am not referring to a physical issue, but rather a spiritual one.
 - A. Some hearts are “hard”.
 - B. Some hearts are “haphazard”.
 - C. Some hearts are “huddled”.
 - D. Some hearts are “healthy”.

Discussion

- I. It is important that we recognize which kind of heart we have.
 - A. By using a parable, Jesus explained the differences in the four kinds of hearts (Matt. 13:3-9).
 - B. The explanation of this parable is found just verses later (Matt. 13:18-23).
- II. If my heart is “hard”, then I need to work on cultivating a more receptive heart (Matt. 13:3-4, 19).
 - A. I should work on putting the things of God before my desires (James 4:13-17).
 - B. Until I am ready to allow God's Word into my heart, it will stay “hard” (Rom. 10:17).
- III. If I have a “haphazard” heart, then I should work on taking Biblical things more seriously (Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21).
 - A. Too often, many seem to care, but not enough.
 - B. This is often demonstrated by the one who is not willing to suffer for the cause of Christ (2 Tim. 2:3-4; 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:21; 4:1; 5:10; Rom. 5:3-4; 8:35; Phil. 1:29).
- IV. If my heart is “huddled”, then I need to make more space for God (Matt. 13:7, 22).
 - A. The things of this world can easily occupy too much of our time.
 - B. I cannot be so busy that I fail to remember my priorities (Matt. 6:33; Luke 12:34; Rom. 12:1-2; Exo. 20:3; Deut. 6:5).
- V. If my heart is “healthy”, then I must exercise righteously in order to keep it that way (Matt. 13:8, 23).
 - A. I can never get to the point where I feel like I have done “enough”.
 - B. If we are not regularly doing the will of God, then we have the danger of allowing our “heart condition” to worsen (Luke 16:10-12, 42-44; 1 Cor. 4:2; Deut. 28:1-2).

Conclusion

- I. How is your heart?
- II. Do you need to do something about it?