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# The Heart of the Matter



The Bible has so much to say about our hearts. Jesus challenged the religious leaders of his day when they “found fault” with his disciples for not following their traditions and he had these words for them,

*“Hear me, EVERYONE, and understand: there is nothing that enters a man or woman from outside which can defile them; but the things which come out of a person, those are the things that defile them....For from within, OUT OF THE HEART, comes evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these EVIL things come from WITHIN and defile a person.”*

Matthew 7

Jesus levels the playing field with this list as he puts evil thoughts, envy, slander, and arrogance on the same team as sexual immorality, theft, murder, and adultery. As he addressed those religious leaders, he said, “You don’t have a leg to stand on! You might not be a murderer, but your mind is full of slander and evil thoughts, etc.”

I am reminded of something Dr. Adrian Rogers used to say: “What’s in the well comes up in the bucket.”

Jesus basically taught that our hearts are the heart of the matter. We do well to daily ask God to show us what’s in our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 tells us that “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” In other words, everything flows from your heart.

I think of the words of the old hymn which asks the question, “How about your heart? Is it right with God? That’s the thing that counts today.”

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