

# It's All A Matter Of The Heart

Jesus told his listeners that murder begins in the heart. He gave the Kingdom perspective on murder by announcing to them that it wasn't about legalism – keeping the 10 Commandments – it was about their heart attitude. He said that if you are angry with someone for no reason, then you have committed murder in your heart and are guilty of murdering them.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus then taught them that adultery is committed when a person had lust in their heart for another person.<sup>2</sup>

The Kingdom operates on spiritual principles, not the Torah. It operates on spiritual authority and spiritual rights, not the Law. The principle Jesus was teaching about here was: **The mouth speaks what's in the heart.**<sup>3</sup>

The danger for us is that we can read this teaching of Jesus, we can acknowledge it, then justify our purity for not doing them, and ignore what's actually in our heart.

What's in your heart?

Here's a brief check list.

- Are you guilty of **lust**? – You do this when you admire the body of a beautiful woman.
- Are you guilty of **divorce**? – You do this if you've rejected your spouse in your heart.
- Are you guilty of **anger**? – You do this when you discipline children without love in your heart.
- Are you guilty of **hate**? – You do this when you vehemently speak against Islam.
- Are you guilty of **jealousy**? – You do this when you belittle another's good fortune.
- Are you guilty of **covetousness**? – You do this when you look longingly at another's new kitchen.
- Are you guilty of **criticism**? – You do this when you critique another person without loving them.
- Are you guilty of **unforgiveness**? – You do this when you speak out of hurt.
- Are you guilty of **rejection**? – You do this when you live in hurt.
- Are you guilty of **impatience**? – You do this when you 'rip' someone for not being punctual.
- Are you guilty of **discontent**? – You do this when you speak against your spouse or your parents.
- Are you guilty of **dishonour**? – You do this when you speak against our prime minister.

Don't look at me! Don't look at others! Look into your own heart. Judge yourself so you won't need to be judged.<sup>4</sup>

I want you to understand the gravity of what I am presenting, so here's something to really 'chew on'.

In Heaven, Rick Joyner met a man who he considered was one of the greatest Christian leaders of all time. He didn't name the man for us to know in his recount of his visit to heaven, probably because the person was in the company of 'The Foolish Virgins'. In conversation, the man made the following confession to him:

*“I am here because I made one of the most grave mistakes you can make as one entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior. Just as the apostle Paul progressed from not considering himself inferior to the greatest apostles, to being the greatest of sinners, I took the opposite course. I started out knowing that I had been one the greatest of sinners who had found grace, but ended up thinking that I was one of the greatest apostles. It was because of my great pride, not insecurity like our friend here, that I began to attack everyone who did not see everything just the way I did. Those who followed me I stripped of their own callings, and even their personalities, pressuring them to all become just like me. No one around me could be themselves. No one dared to question me because I*

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1 – Matthew 5:21-22

2 – Matthew 5:27-28

3 – Matthew 12:34b

4 – 1 Corinthians 11:31

would crush them into powder; I thought that by making others smaller I made myself larger. I thought that I was supposed to be the Holy Spirit to everyone. From the outside my ministry looked like a smooth running machine where everyone was in unity and there was perfect order, but it was the order of a concentration camp. I took the Lord's own children and made them automatons in my own image instead of His. In the end I was not even serving the Lord, but the idol I had built to myself. By the end of my life I was actually an enemy of the true gospel, at least in practice, even if my teachings and writings seemed impeccably biblical."”<sup>5</sup>

Then the man's wife spoke to Rick with some very revealing truths:

*“Then a woman stepped forward who I did not know. Her beauty and grace was breathtaking, but it was not sensual, or seductive in any way. She was the definition of dignity and nobility...*

*"But your husband's work, or your work, greatly impacted every generation after him for good. It is hard to imagine how dark the world would have been without him," I protested.*

*"True. But you can gain the whole world and still lose your own soul. Only if you keep your own soul pure can you impact the world for the truly lasting eternal purpose of God. My husband lost his soul to me, and he only gained it at the end of his life because I was taken from the earth so that he could. Much of what he did he did more for me than for the Lord. I pressured him, and even gave him much of the knowledge that he taught. I used him as an extension of my own ego, because as a woman at the time I could not be recognized as a spiritual leader myself. I took over his life so that I could live my life through Him. Soon I had him doing everything just to prove himself to me."*

*"You must have loved her very much." I said looking at him.*

*"No. I did not love her at all. Neither did she love me. In fact, after just a few years of marriage we did not even like each other. But we both needed each other, so we found a way to work together. The more successful we became in this way, the more unhappy we became, and the more deception we used to fool those who followed us. We were empty wretches by the end of our lives. The more influence that you gain by your own self-promotion, the more striving you must do to keep your influence, and the more dark and cruel your life will become. Kings feared us, but we feared everyone from the kings to the peasants. We could trust no one because we were living in such deception ourselves we did not even trust each other. We preached love and trust, because we wanted everyone to love and trust us, but we feared and secretly despised everyone ourselves. If you preach the greatest truths but do not live them, you are only the greatest hypocrite."...*

*"The purity that you saw in me was what my husband first saw in me when we were young. I was relatively pure in my motives then, but I corrupted his love and my own purity by letting him worship me wrongly. You can never become pure just by worshiping one who is more pure than you, but only by going beyond them to find for yourself the One who has made them pure, and in Whom alone is no sin. The more people praised us, and the more we accepted their praises, the further we departed from the path of life. Then we started living for the praises of men, and to gain power over those who would not praise us. That was our demise, and was the same for many who are here in the lowest place, but were called to be in the highest."”<sup>6</sup>*

Did you get that?

**You can spend your life doing things for the Kingdom and end up just scraping into eternity with Father because of issues with your heart.**

For instance. What is your heart attitude towards your possessions – including your money?

Are you an extravagant giver like your Father? Or, are you a skimpy giver, spending your money on your self, or complaining that you don't have enough to be able to give financially to anyone?

5 – Rick Joyner “The Final Quest” [e-book version: Taken from "The Morning Star," Vol. 5, Nos 2-4, by Rick Joyner] p:39

6 – Rick Joyner “The Final Quest” [e-book version: Taken from "The Morning Star," Vol. 5, Nos 2-4, by Rick Joyner] p:40, 41, 43

The 1<sup>st</sup> church shared everything with each other. Could your heart allow you to do that?

**Acts 2:44-45** (NKJV) – *Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

**Acts 4:32-35** (NKJV) – *Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.*

Here's a test-case scenario to evaluate your heart in this area: A friend advises you that someone they know had their house burnt down last night and they lost everything – including their wallet, mobile phone and car. Are you prepared to let them live in your house until they find new accommodation. Would you immediately offer them your 2<sup>nd</sup> car and your mobile phone for them to use? Would you even give them your 2<sup>nd</sup> car and mobile phone to keep? This scenario should test your heart considerably.

The heart is very important, including that of other people. Evaluate other's heart by their speech, actions and attitudes so you know how to relate to them. Don't accept a leader on the basis of their leadership and don't accept the teaching or oversight of a spiritual person if their hearts are not right. A spiritual person can prophesy using their charisma gift, but still be a drunkard. Always check the heart of a person.

**NOTE:** This is how Jezebel gains access and control. People are sucked in by her nice comments and generosity without discerning her heart.

**It's all a matter of the heart.** So keep a check on yours at ALL times. Evaluate the heart attitude underneath whatever you think, say and do – your eternal future depends on it.

Laurence

25-2-2017

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