

A Different Take On: The Heart is Deceitful

Back in the 1980's in our house church in country NSW (Australia), we were informed by one of our members, whom we initially regarded as being prophetic, that we needed to follow our heart. This advice we rejected outright because the Bible – our reference point back then – stated that we should follow the Spirit as our primary director. Another member of our group instructed us from the Bible that our hearts are deceitful, so we definitely shouldn't follow our heart. The outcome of this was that we pursued the leading of the Spirit and rejected any future mention of the heart.

Here's the quote that we followed, in rejecting heart directives:

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV) – *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

This negative categorization of the heart fits in with the statements of Jesus:

Matthew 15:19-20 (NKJV) – *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.*

Mark 7:21-23 (NKJV) – *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.*

Does Jeremiah's and Jesus' statements reveal the truth that our heart is abominably deceitful?

Let's check the Jewish Bible to see what it says. Maybe we have translated it wrongly.

Yirmeyah 17:9 (Orthodox Jewish Bible) – The **lev** (heart, mind) **akov** (is deceitful) above all things, and **anush** (incurable [in wickedness]); who can know it?

No. The OJB definitely supports the English translations.

Now remember, the English translations are derived from specific ancient documents (called a 'codex'), which were chosen from the thousands available, because they were said to be the most accurate or the oldest (closest to the original). But, have they been purposely selected to produce church dogma that aligns with the system's preexisting beliefs? Many sound-thinking theologians have stated in writing that codexes (more accurately, 'codices') have been chosen for their support of system beliefs. This puts us in a difficult position to answer our question about the heart.

One place we could check for the content of Jeremiah 17:9 is the Septuagint¹. This was a Koine² Greek translation of the scriptures originating in Alexandria at the request of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–247 BC) by seventy-two Hebrew translators – six from each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Here's what the interlinear Septuagint has for that verse:³

διαλείπει ποιών καρπὸν 9 βαθεΐα ἡ καρδία παρά
stop producing fruit. [[is] deep The heart] beyond
πάντα και ἀνθρώπος ἐστι ὅστις γνώσεται αὐτόν 10
all [things], and man is, who shall know him?

This is what is effectively says in English:

Jeremiah 17:9 (Septuagint) – *The heart of man is deep, beyond all things, who can know him?*⁴

1 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septuagint [Also written as 'LXX' in shorthand]

2 – Common Greek dialect of ancient times. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koine_Greek

3 – archive.org/details/septuagint-interlinear-greek-english/page/1010/mode/2up

4 – English translation from the original by Laurence Smart

Now that's radically different to what's in our English translations. In fact they bear no resemblance to each other, so where does that leave us?

Most importantly, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" has had a huge negative impact on believers for thousands of years. It has caused them to believe – and still does today – that their soul has never really been made fully whole and restored, because it's beyond cure.

That misunderstanding produced what could be called 'worm theology', where we see ourselves as worthless 'worms' – i.e. we are nobodies and there's nothing at all attractive about our person. That mindset is generated in the system from the teaching that 'we are sinners saved by grace'. The outcome being that believers⁵ aren't sure whether 'God'⁶ loves them and will have mercy on them. Consequently, they can't receive the facts of their true identity, that they are much loved sons of Father. Therefore, they either reject 'God' or they formulate demeaning lives so they are humble (in their own sight), with the intent of changing his mind about them. All very weird, I know, but having been in 4 church systems, I'm well acquainted with this behaviour.

Interestingly, it's out of the about mindset that the modern Gospel is formulated and preached. The main thrust behind it is that we're so bad that we need saving from eternal punishment. But Father doesn't see us like that, he sees us 'through the lens' of Jesus and who he knows us to really be. That is, all humanity has always been Father's sons (or 'children' if you like) because he created us for family relationship and to assist him in managing planet Earth. Remember, fathers procreate after their own kind – fathers beget sons.

Seeing ourselves as less than sons, and ones who were made a little lower than the Trinity,⁷ leads us to develop our own identities, even when we've come into the Kingdom by accepting the work that Jesus accomplished. Even for believer's, the mindset of a 'sinner saved by grace', causes life for them to be less fulfilled, because they wonder how long Father's grace will keep them in his favour. That's all very degrading and depressing, and not conducive to enjoying the wonderful life available in the Kingdom.

Opposed to that thinking, the LXX translation shows that our heart is deep, beyond anything we can really comprehend through our own understanding, but it is who we really are in the natural. As it's unfathomable to us, it requires the input of the Trinity (our Creator) for us to know who we really are, and that comes through our intimate relationship with them. Their influence will change our perception of ourselves and of others, which is vital for stable living and lasting relationships.

How good is that? Let's chuck out the English translation of Jeremiah and accept who we really are, a being with a very deep soul.

What about Jesus' teaching on the heart?

His teaching indicates that what we think, speak and do comes from our heart's influence over our being. His teaching doesn't infer that what comes from our heart is always evil – it would be an assumption to say so. Of course, if his teaching is coupled with the English translation of Jeremiah, then it is logical to infer that. However, now that we know that the verse in Jeremiah in English is not accurate, we must not move into inference, but stick for reality, instead.

In conclusion, our soul was made by the Trinity in their image, so it must be good. However, as we have been given the autonomy to make our own decisions, we can choose what our heart is like and whether the Kingdom of Darkness influences it. We can allow it to be corrupted, or we can allow it to be under the

5 – 'believer': My expression for those who believe in what was accomplished by the man Jesus. It includes Christians, plus those who have a relationship with the Trinity outside of the structured church.

6 – 'God': I use this term in inverted commas because 'God' is the generic term people use, while I don't any more. I have an intimate relationship with the members of the Trinity, so I refer to each of them by name, out of relationship. From my oneness with them, I collectively refer to them as The Trinity.

7 – SEE: Psalm 8:4-6 (AMP)

READ: "Do We Have Deity?" (7-1-2023) canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Do-We-Have-Deity.pdf

oversight of the Spirit. This is why it's critical that we bring our body, and soul into alignment with our Spirit-connected spirit so we can function like our prototype,⁸ Jesus of Nazareth, just as our King has instructed us.⁹

For more teaching on this topic listen to the following video teaching:

- Mike Parsons “Your heart is not "deceitfully wicked" (whatever your Bible says)”
youtu.be/SrbQPcGCGGQ

Believe It or Not! **The choice is yours**

Whatever you choose to believe won't negatively impact Father's relationship with you

Laurence

9-8-2024

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

8 – MESSAGE: “See Me As Your Prototype” (24-3-2015)

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/33b-See-Me-As-Your-Prototype.pdf

9 – KCC MESSAGE: “Integration of Body, Soul and Spirit” (31-7-2024)

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/KCC-MESSAGE-Integration-of-body-soul-and-spirit-31-7-2024.pdf