
A Heart Like God's

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).

"After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will'" (Acts 13:22).

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The highest compliment that God can give any human being is "You have a heart like Mine." However, questions immediately come: "Is it possible? Is this not beyond our reach? Who could have a heart like God's?" In spite of the perfection of God's nature, in spite of His exalted traits, God said that David was "a man after [His] heart." Though His statement is tantalizingly short and to the point, God said it, affirmed it, and expects us to believe it. With these words, God pointed us to a man who was "one" with Him to an amazing degree.

In that day of little revelation, David saw what God was like and molded his heart, his spirit, into the likeness of what he saw. He looked through the windows that God had given him, beheld the beautiful heart of God, and allowed those pictures to reconfigure his soul into God's image. He made many contributions to all the saints of the Christian Era, such as the psalms that he wrote and the example of the righteous deeds that he did. Undoubtedly, though, his greatest contribution to us is giving us an example of how to imitate God. No one can do anything greater than becoming like God; for with that one sweeping accomplishment, he acquires all the characteristics that are needed for the Christian personality.

As one sets out today on this wonderful quest to acquire the heart of God, he immediately discovers that he has numerous advantages David did not have. He has the completed revelation, the example of Jesus' earthly life, and the cross

which speaks volumes about God's heart.

Using especially the scenes at the cross, let us mold our hearts after God's heart. Going beyond the academic exercise that is necessary, beyond the mere facts, let us enter into the arena of spiritual transformation by asking God to give us His heart. Let us look to God and say, "Dear Father, shape us today into Your image."

In love, He might say to us, "You, My child, will need to see things the way I do if you want to have a heart like Mine. As you look at the world, do you know what I see? I see the people. I did not make the people for the world; I made the world for the people. Yes, I made the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, and the whole universe for the people. However, I am not primarily seeking the happiness of the people; I want them to live in My holiness, to be My children. I yearn not so much to put them into nice houses, but to seat them in heavenly places in Christ. I see a world of people who need the gospel of salvation that I have sent into the world through Jesus My Son. I want every person on the earth to stand in My grace and to live with My spiritual blessings" (see Ephesians 2:6, 7).

He would further say, "You, My child, will also need to dream the dreams that I am dreaming if you are to have a heart like Mine. You see, I have dreamed a great dream for this world. Every person in it is the object of My love. I love each person even more than you love your own children. I chose to bring them into the world for this particular time in history. No person is an

afterthought; each one results from My forethought. I planned every individual, and I am seeking each one's salvation. I want everyone to live in My fellowship and to have eternal life through My Son. I am working daily, dreaming continually, of covering the earth with the gospel and the knowledge of My love as the waters cover the beds of the seas."

He would say, "In addition to all of this, you, My child, will need to do with your life and resources what I want done in the world if you desire to have a heart like Mine. Your actions and words need to express what is in your heart. I want something to happen in the world. I am active in My world; I am working daily to fulfill the eternal purpose I have for it. I will not coerce or violate anyone's free choice, but I am attempting to teach each one, warn each one, and encourage each one to walk in My ways. I do much of My work through My people. I use them as My vehicles to transfer My message to the hearts that will receive it. I want the bodies of My people to be fed, clothed, and sheltered; but these temporary needs are not My main concern. No, I want their souls to be fed My Word, their spirits to be clothed with Jesus, and their hearts to be sheltered with My faithfulness."

In summary, He would say to us, "You can look at the cross and see what My heart is really like. Why would I send My Son the way I did? Why would I let Him suffer such agony

on the cross? You know the answer to these questions: When the blood dripped from My Son's hands, it dripped out of My heart. When the spear was thrust into His side, it pierced My heart."

The cross stands above time. As the supreme event of all events in history, the cross stands as the greatest expression of God's heart. It is as if God put His heart out on a gigantic display table, a table called Calvary, so that the world could see every great motivation and thought in it. Paul wrote, "Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood" (Romans 3:25a). No one can do anything greater than to plant the cross in his heart, for he who plants the cross in his heart has planted the heart of God in his heart!

Eddie Cloer



"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma" (Ephesians 4:31—5:2).