Understand Your Heart☆

Key Idea: I understand my heart so that I can fully embrace God's purpose for me.

4 Descriptions Concerning our Heart (Jeremiah 17:5-10)

1. My Heart is Deceitful (v.5-9a)

2. My Heart can't be Cured (v.5-9b)

    1. We are dysfunctional by nature

    2. My Real Problems are in me, not out there

    3. Depravity wears all kind of sophisticated masks.

    4. Depravity cannot be eradicated by human effort.

    5. Depravity means I can't trust myself.

    6. Admitting my depravity drives me to God.

3. My Heart can be Curbed (v.10)

4. My Heart will be Changed (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

☆ "Heroes: Discover your SHAPE!" Series - Part #3 Message by Pastor Jesse Elizondo - (9/21/08).
Sermons at www.tworiversbiblechurch/sermons.org

REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

1. Read the story of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. What motivated them to sin? Note all the "new knowledge" they gained from sinning. How are we like Adam and Eve? (Romans 5:12)

2. Look closely at Jeremiah 17:9. What is the human heart like? See also Proverbs 14:12. What does this tell us about our own nature? Can you always be safe "trusting your instincts" and "following your heart"?

3. Are children born basically good and corrupted by their parents and environment? Or, are children born with a sin nature that must be curbed? Do children act disrespectful and disobedient because they are so "smart" and "creative" and "free-spirited" – or because they are sinners? (Proverbs 22:15)

4. How do you deal with your depravity? Do you deny it, pretending it is not there? ... Or deflect it by seeing the faults in others?...Or depend on Christ for your righteousness? Give some practical proven ways to overcome your depravity in Christ.

Memory Verse

[9] The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? - Jeremiah 17:9