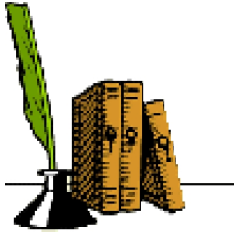


## THE HEART OF THE MATTER!

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I became a young man kind of the hard way, that is, my father would say to me while I thought I was giving the assigned task my best, **“put your heart into it!”** Amazingly this saying comes from scriptures we often overlook.

In fact, the Lord upbraided those who only gave Him lip service by saying, *“Forasmuch as this people draw nigh unto me, and with their mouth and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment of men which hath been taught them...”*<sup>1</sup>

Recently while in South India the Lord gave us a wonderful message concerning the heart and lip service. Wise counsel from the Lord is unparalleled! He brought to our understanding that **God does not judge by the hearing of the ear nor by the seeing of the eye!** Isaiah 11:1-3. Therefore, because God is a Spirit there must be a higher way of communication! Amen.

There is a great lesson to learn on this subject by what happened when blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord as He was passing by saying; **“Jesus, thou son of David have mercy on me!”** And many tried to stop him from crying out, but he cried the more a great deal. Mark 10:46-52 The response that came from Jesus was not thy heart has made thee whole, but; **“thy Faith hath made thee whole!”** There then must be a connection between faith and the heart!

### IT IS NOT WHAT WE SAY, BUT HOW WE SAY IT!

The power in words is not what we say, but how we say them!! The resolve that is in the heart is what projects faith and love in our words. This is how Bartimaeus touched Jesus. If there is not a certainty in our speaking then our words are half-hearted, a term very often used in the Western World. Is it not obvious to all of us during communication whether or not the words spoken are really from the heart and have meaning?

Jesus said; **“when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”**<sup>2</sup> For certain there is a direct relationship between **‘Faith’** and the **‘Heart.’** **“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth [faith] confession is made unto salvation.”**<sup>3</sup> If we truly love the Lord, He will find faith in us. We will gladly lay down the priority of our earthly desires and answer as Samuel did; **“here am I,”** when God called him. There is no greater joy in life than to be a worker together with Him<sup>4</sup> to fulfill the purpose He created us for. We will seek to have heart-felt rewarding fellowship with God. But can we really do this? Of course we can! We live and breath in Him and in Him we have our being. Acts 17:28.

Open the heart with child like faith when you read or hear the word of God spoken. Simply believe, that if you acknowledge Jesus has the words of eternal life for every situation now and forever you will come to; **“The Heart of the Matter.”** He will gladly give you a much more abundant life!

### Proverbs 8:17-21

*I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.*

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 29:13. 1881 ESV

<sup>2</sup> Luke 18:8

<sup>3</sup> Romans 10:10.

<sup>4</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:1