

## "DO YOU HAVE HEART DISEASE?"

### "...IS THINE HEART RIGHT, AS MY HEART IS WITH THY HEART?"

**TEXT:** **2Ki 10:15** *And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, **Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?** And Jehonadab answered, **It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.***

**THESIS:** To encourage Christians to be sure their hearts are right w/others.

**INTRO.:** A. Heart disease is the #1 killer in America. It is also the #1 "killer" in churches & homes. If you have **bitterness** in your heart toward someone you have heart trouble. If you have **hatred** dwelling there it can kill you.

B. The symptoms of spiritual heart disease are **jealousy, envy, bitterness, gossip, talebearing & hypocrisy**. The treatment for any kind of heart disease is often drastic. It may include a complete change of life style, constant monitoring of blood pressure, check-ups & daily medication. So in the spiritual realm.

### I. THE DIAGNOSIS OF HEART DISEASE:

A. An Accurate History:

**TRANS.:** The diagnosis of heart disease is critical. Spiritual heart disease may be diagnosed by simply asking yourself **"...Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?"** If your response is positive, you check out O.K., if negative, you have spiritual heart disease. **"DO YOU HAVE HEART DISEASE?"**

1. A careful evaluation of the patient's history is critical.
2. The Bible supplies us w/the needed information & says our heart is **"desperately wicked & deceitful above all things."**

B. A Thorough Examination:

1. We must look w/in & say w/the Psalmist **"Search me O' God...& see if there be any wicked way in me..."**
2. We must look around & be sure we can say w/Jehu **"is thine heart right, as my heart is w/thy heart?"**
  - a. We cannot change other's hearts, but we can check out our own.
  - b. We cannot be held resp. for other's condition but we are resp. for our own.

C. Regular Check Ups:

1. We need to regularly monitor its health. **I Jn.1:9**
2. The Lord said **"Let a man examine himself..."**(medical terminology).
3. We need to regularly ask ourselves if our heart is right w/others:
  - a. Youth...is your heart right w/your teachers?
  - b. Teachers...is your heart right w/your students?
  - c. Mothers...is your heart right w/your children?
  - d. Children...is your heart right w/your parents?
  - e. Husbands/wives...is your heart right w/your partner?
  - f. Deacons...is your heart right w/your pastor?
  - g. Church member...is your heart right w/your pastor?
  - h. Pastor...is your heart right w/church members?

**ILLUS.:** I am not perfect, but as far as I know I can say **"Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?"**

- I have lost my temper w/Moses & struck the Rock, but...
- I have sat under the Juniper tree w/Elijah feeling sorry for myself, but...
- I have seconded Peter's motion on the Mt. of Transfiguration to build 3 tabernacles on the Mt. top because I didn't want to go back down to the valley, but...
- I have joined silent Joseph of Arimethea & Nicodemus & failed to speak up for Christ, but...
- I have slept w/Peter, James & John in Gethsemane, but...
- I have left my first love w/the Ephesian Christians, but...
- I have been proud w/Saul, denied w/Peter, doubted w/Thomas, gone fishing w/the disciples & even run the wrong direction w/Jonah, but...

- I cannot qualify w/Job for the title of a **"perfect & an upright man"** but I can say w/Jehu: **"Is thine heart right as my heart is with thy heart."**

## **II. TREATING HEART DISEASE:**

### A. Change Your Life Style:

**ILLUS.:** Often heart patients have to change their habits, diet, exercise level & even their high stress jobs (or high stress husbands or wives...*smile*).

1. Quit some bad habits...gossip, backbiting, retaliation.
2. Change your diet...read God's Word instead of the newspaper, magazines, TV, etc.
3. Begin an exercise program...pray for those who misuse you. **Mt.5:43**

### B. Monitor Your Heart Regularly:

**ILLUS.:** In the coronary unit, each patient is attached to a monitoring device which shows on a screen any irregularities in pulse rate, pressure, etc. If something goes wrong, a warning light & buzzer signals & a team of specialists converge on the patient to take care of the problem.

1. The heartbeat may be involuntary, but we can take steps to *change it* if it is not functioning properly. (Pacemaker)

**NOTE:** Our old nature continues to function & creates jealousy, envy, strife, etc. But we don't have to entertain nor even tolerate it.

2. The heart may stop beating but there are means available to start it up again. (Paddles).

**ILLUS.:** If you have lost your joy, desire to serve, enthusiasm, etc. you can get out the spiritual fibrillator paddles & shock the heart back into functioning again. In the most extreme cases a "heart transplant" may be necessary & in the spiritual realm it is available for the asking.

**Ps. 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

If you are unsaved, you definitely need a "heart transplant."

**Ezek.36:26** *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

### C. Take The Prescribed Medication:

1. Take one dose of **Mt.6:12,14,15.**

**Matt.6:12-15** *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

2. Take one tablet of **2 Kings 10:15b** *"give me thine hand..."*

**ILLUS.:** In Bible times extending the hand to someone meant: *"I give you the hurler of the spear & javelin, the wielder of the sword & dagger."* You are saying *"I am defenseless & I trust you...take my empty hand."*

Don't use those 27 bones, the tendons & ligaments to harm or destroy. Offer your hand in friendship & offer it to help.

**CONCL.:** **"DO YOU HAVE HEART DISEASE?"** It could be serious or fatal to you as a believer. You need to say **"Is thine heart right, as my heart is w/thy heart?"**

**Unsaved, do you need a "heart transplant?"**