

DECEMBER 2, 2012

INTIMACY OF AN UNDIVIDED HEART

“Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again. They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.”

Ezekiel 11:17-20

Intimacy does not happen by chance. It is a choice. If we sincerely desire to be intimate with God, we need to pursue it diligently and wholeheartedly. It is important to ensure that our heart remains undivided so that we can become God’s chosen people.

Undivided is defined as not directed to or given to more than one object, as undivided attention or affection. When someone or something is undivided this also means that that person or thing is devoted solely to an owner for a specific purpose.

God, Himself has commanded us to have an undivided heart. He says in Exodus 20:1-3 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.” God wants to be the sole owner of our hearts. He wants our hearts to be dedicated solely to Him for His specific purpose for us. An undivided heart then becomes essential in our pursuit of intimacy with God since that was the purpose for which we were created — to be in a relationship with Him. But apart from the grace of God, it is difficult if not impossible to remain an undivided heart.

What then is the importance of an Undivided Heart?

God requires us to give Him all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, and all our mind (Luke 10:27). He goes to tell us that we have to hate our own family in order to become His disciple (Luke 14:26). This shows us that God demands our 100% attention. He demands that our hearts remain undivided — that it can only be devoted to Him. We cannot love God and the world at the same time because God’s ways are the not world’s ways (Matthew 6:24). . . And if we try to compromise, we will be unable to give God our 100% and end up divided, confused and lost.

Being undivided is at the very heart of discipleship. We cannot surrender ourselves completely and totally be dependent on God, if in our hearts we are relying on other people, things or even ourselves. If we cannot deny ourselves — then we cannot experience God working in our lives and we will miss out on the transforming power of God’s presence in our life.



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays
700 pm
1102 E Swanee Lane
West Covina, CA

Thursdays
730 pm
2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA

Fridays
700 pm
5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood, CA

Fridays
730 PM
4706 Ivar Ave
Rosemead, CA

*Please contact Rey Bejerano at
6263545717 for venue changes*

What can we learn from the lives of some biblical characters?

1. Saul (1 Samuel 13:13)

- Saul did not want to wait for Samuel and took it upon himself to offer the burnt offerings
- this action was disobedience to God's instructions and the result was that he lost God's favor and the kingdom
- this clearly shows us that he did not have a heart for the Lord, his heart was full of selfish pride

2. David (Acts 13:22)

- he is known as a man after God's heart
- although he had been anointed king of Israel, David did not take matters into his own hands, rather he waited on God's perfect timing
- he sinned, he lied, he manipulated and committed adultery when he allowed himself to become involved with Bathsheba but when he was confronted with his sin, he was quick to confess his sin and renew his life
- this tells us that having a heart for God does not mean we are perfect, but rather it means that although we may stumble and fall, we can quickly pick ourselves up, confess our sins and return to the path of righteousness
- David had a heart for God — his purpose was to please God

3. Solomon (1 Chronicle 28:9)

- before David died, he gave Solomon this instructions *"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever."*
- in the early part of his life, Solomon pursued intimacy with God but as his fame and riches grew, his heart was waylaid and he began to worship other gods (1 Kings 11:4-6). His story shows us that if we do not devote ourselves solely to God, our hearts can be deceived and other things can take its hold in our heart — it may be power, money, fame, riches, vices — whatever it maybe it will start to occupy space in our hearts and if we continue to allow it to dominate it can slowly push God out of our hearts.

Having an undivided heart gives us confidence in God's presence in our life as in the case of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; and even in the case of Peter and John. When we know God and we surrender our lives to Him, we will find ourselves growing in intimacy with God as He continually allows us to experience His power in our life. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego was able to defy King Nebuchadnezzar because they knew that God will protect them and distinguish them. And God used their faith to make His power and name known that even a gentile king was able to witness and proclaim His glory. Peter and John even when they were threatened with imprisonment and death could boldly continue to proclaim the Good News, because they relied on their relationship with Jesus and they understood that this was more important than conforming to what the society expected them to do.

What are the benefits of having an undivided heart?

1. 2 Chronicle 16:9—we have God's support and protection

2. Joshua 14:8;11—God will continue to give us strength in order to complete our work

3. Hebrews 12:24-26

- Moses chose to give up the life he could have had in Egypt in order to obey God's calling.
- Opportunity cost is defined as the cost of any choice measured in terms of the value of the alternative. When we choose to sacrifice to throw away something because you have made a decision.
- this is what Moses did. He gave away a life of luxury and riches in exchange for a life of intimacy with God. This gain outweighs any potential benefits in a continued life in Egypt.

When we commit our hearts to God—undivided, surrendered and dependent—He can work in our lives and we will be in His presence . . . And if we are in His presence then we will be protected provided for and distinguished.

How can we have an undivided heart?

1. We have to ASK. Psalm 86:11 *Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name*
2. We have to SEEK. Jeremiah 29:13 *You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*
3. We should OBEY. Deuteronomy 28:14 *and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*
4. We have to DECIDE. Joshua 24:15 *If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

WORKS: Journaling task

In line with our continued pursuit of intimacy with God and our challenge for DISCIPLESHIP, let us continue to search our hearts specifically for God's message for us as we continue to grow and learn in our journey.

SUPREME LOVE OF GOD



- what are the things that divide your heart? Profession/work? Money? Vices?
These are the things that may be hindering you from giving God your whole heart.
- who or what is the main occupant in my heart? Self? Spouse? Kids? Family? Friends?
These are the people who take priority in your heart above God
- is your heart filled with anger? Resentment? Greed? Envy? Self pity? Worry?

STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

Among the various passages mentioned in the message — which particular bible verse spoke strongly to you?

What is God telling you/ reminding you in this passage?

Have we gone through the steps of ASK—SEEK—OBEY—DECIDE? Where are we now in pursuing an undivided heart dedicated solely to God?

SELF DENIAL

We are being asked to weigh the costs — Opportunity cost — like Moses did when the time came, we are being asked — what kind of life will we choose to live? Will we remain slaves to the world? Or do we pursue a distinguished path to intimacy with God.

What are we giving up in exchange for obedience to God's calling?

Be specific.

CHRIST-LIKE LOVE

An undivided heart encourages us to go boldly and in confidence to share God's love and mercy. What are the specific burdens or proddings that God is giving you? Are you being burdened to work for ministry? To share the gospel with a specific person? Is God asking you to be bolder and proclaim that you are a Christian?

If we have an undivided heart, God can bless others through us — who is God asking you to share His blessings with?



Discipleship: THE FOUR PILLARS

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- * Pursuing intimacy with God delights God. And when God is delighted with us, we will experience His presence in our life.
- * In His presence, we are protected and provided for thus making us distinguished. Setting us apart for His purpose.
- * His purpose for us is Relationship. A relationship with Him and a relationship with others who also have been distinguished and set apart. This is **Friendship with a Vision**.
- * DISCIPLESHIP is our marching order. To be discipled and to disciple.
- * Discipleship is the process of bringing people to Jesus Christ (BELIEVE) and building them up (GROW) in the faith towards Christ-likeness (DISCIPLE), for the purpose of spiritual multiplication (MULTIPLY) resulting in the glory of God.

SUPREME LOVE OF GOD

- * Matt 22:37 commands us to "Love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind"
- * God's love language is OBEDIENCE.
- * Supreme love of God is about pleasing God. To please God we must obey Him in everything.
- * God's love for us is selfless and unconditional. He knows our sins will condemn and destroy us so He sent us a Savior, His only son Jesus — so that we can be freed from the bondage of sin.
- * The only thing He wants from us is for us to love Him. To obey His commandments. To surrender our lives to His will.

STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD

- * Jn 8:31 tells us that for us to become Jesus' disciples, we must abide in Him
- * The Bible is God's love letter to us. It gives us an understanding of His nature, His character and His love. It also tells us what He requires from us so that we can please Him.
- * When we study and live out the Word of God in our lives in OBEDIENCE to His commands, we are pleasing
- * Abiding is to live moment by moment in OBEDIENCE to God's word

SELF DENIAL

- * Lk 9:23 tells us that for us to be able to follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves and take up cross daily
- * Self denial is relinquishing control of our lives over to God. To deny our human desires and nature and allowing the Spirit to take control, to transform us so that we bear fruits that is edifying to those around us and pleasing to God.
- * Who we are is defined not by what is innate in us, but rather we should be defined by who we are in Jesus Christ.

CHRIST-LIKE LOVE

- * Matt 22:39 commands us to "love our neighbor as yourself"
- * We look at Jesus' illustration in the story of the Good Samaritan. In the story, the Samaritan chose to be different. He chose to stop, be inconvenienced and to use his resources to help them man. He even went the extra mile to make sure that the man was cared for until he was fully recovered.
- * This is what is expected of us: that we are able to deny ourselves and be able to share Christ's love to our neighbors. This is what God commands us to do.
- * When we do what is out of character for us, when we go out of our comfort zones to do the Lord's bidding — we are able to share the blessings, the grace and the love we have received from the Father to those around us, even to we think are unlovable and deserving. When we OBEY in this, we are pleasing God . . .and when God is pleased, He is with us. When He is with us, we are protected, we are provided for. . . And this will set us apart and make us distinguished. So that all those who look at our lives will see Jesus' love and know that we are His children.