

Sermon Notes - Simplicity #3

Simple Hearts

Simplicity Of Living:

- Meeting life face to face without hiding or pretending
 - Approaching life clearly without distractions
 - Being direct and honest in relationships
- Not collecting grudges, baggage, regrets or excess stuff!

(Adapted from Duane Elgin)

Ecclesiastes 7:29

***This only have I found:
God made humanity upright,
but they have gone in search of
many schemes.***

YASHAR = EVEN, UPRIGHT, STRAIGH, SIMPLE.

- not bent by the past
- not twisted by desire
- not confusing or slippery
- but true!

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight (yashar).*

Isaiah 40:4

*"In the desert prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight (yashar) in the wilderness a highway for our God.*

John 1:47

*When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said,
"Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."*

HISHOBOWN = SCHEMES, MACHINATIONS, COMPLICATED, TWISTED, FABRICATED OR MADE UP.

- plans that are a little too clever
- the lies we tell ourselves & others
- the twisted path to feed desire
- the things we say to look good

WHAT THINGS TWIST THE HUMAN HEART INTO A COMPLEX ANGRY ANXIOUS OR SCHEMING MESS?

THREE THINGS TO SAY OUT LOUD THAT GROW SIMPLICITY OF HEART.

Romans 10:10b

It is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Simplicity in your heart depends a great deal, on what you say with your mouth.

It is with your mouth that you make things real - and that in turn changes your heart.

1. ADMIT

1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

"Indeed, an honest and humble acknowledgment of the hopelessness of our flesh, even after the new birth, is the first step to holiness. To speak quite plainly, some of us are not leading holy lives for the simple reason that we have too high an opinion of ourselves." - John R. W. Stott, Men Made New. Pg. 74.

Until we admit our faults we will never have simplicity of heart. Instead we will always be trying to be someone we are not, make up for it, or to prove something. Freedom comes from admitting you are a sinner - from admitting that you are not and cannot be perfect. When you honestly do this, out loud - to other human beings - then you can hear forgiveness and grace. But instead too many of us 'compare and contrast' - being quick to point out other's faults and failures, rejoicing in the public failures of those in power. This just gets in the way of admitting our own faults. We need to admit our sin OUT LOUD. Then it's power over us can be broken.

2. F

Mark 11:25.

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Colossians 3:13.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

"Bitterness is like drinking rat poison and waiting for the rat to die." - Pastor John Ortberg

To forgive is to let go. To do this we almost always need to speak it out loud (even if in private). Often sure forgiveness is real until it breaks the sound barrier. To forgive simplifies things. It gives up on revenge. It ends the work of nursing a grudge. It gives up on winning. Forgiveness is made real by being spoken, which is why in this church deliberately speak God's love and forgiveness out loud on Sunday!

3. SAY

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

Continue in prayer, being alert in it with thanksgiving.

Simplicity of heart grows when we remember that all the good we have is a gift. To acknowledge that all is a 'gift of grace' changes the heart. Faith is not knowing all the answers, or being emotionally perfect, or being the wisest one. Real faith is gratitude! It starts with God's love, that does everything for us.