

Should You Trust Your Heart?

John 14.1

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Scripture Reader and Reading: Wayne Duncan – John 14.1–4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on believing in the Lord

Prelude:

I. How many times have you heard

- A. that you should just trust your heart?
- B. that you should follow your heart?
- C. or something similar?
 - 1. My question is: Does the Bible support such thinking?
 - 2. Is this the way to succeed in life?

II. What is scriptural; what do the Scriptures teach us?

Persuasion:

I. Bible Warnings

- A. After hearing the following passages,
 - 1. ask yourself whether you want your heart to lead you.
 - 2. Perhaps you might think that your heart needs redemption.
- B. Proverbs 28 shows
 - 1. the way of foolishness and
 - 2. the way of wisdom:

**26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.**

– Proverbs 28.26

- a) That first line refutes what we hear everyday, and
- b) the second line shows the blessedness of walking in wisdom,
 - (1) walking in biblical, Holy Spirit-inspired wisdom.

(2) It shows what our Creator thinks.

- (a) As I reveal to you several passages from the Book of Jeremiah
- (b) you will see why trusting in your heart is foolish.

C. In Jeremiah 7,

1. the Lord reminded the Jews
2. what He had commanded their fathers when they came out of Egypt:

23 "...this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' 24 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward."

– Jeremiah 7.23–24

- a) The Lord looks at it as
- b) either you listen to me or you listen to your heart.
 - (1) The point of the Book of Jeremiah is to show
 - (2) what happens when you ignore the Lord and follow your heart.

D. In Jeremiah 9,

1. the Lord let Israel, or Judah, know why
2. He would send the Babylonians against them, and
 - a) why they would end up in captivity:

13 "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, 14 but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them..."

– Jeremiah 9.13–14

- b) Their hearts told them
 - (1) not to obey the Lord and

- (2) not to walk according to His voice, but
 - (a) to walk according to the dictates of their own hearts and
 - (b) that led them to follow the Baals.

E. Jeremiah 11 shows

1. that the Lord repeated Himself
2. so that they might know precisely what would happen:

8 “Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.”

– Jeremiah 11.8

- a) He referred to the covenant revealed by Moses
- b) where the Lord told them hundreds of years in advance
 - (1) what He would do if they did not listen to Him, but
 - (2) listened to idols or listened to their hearts.

F. In Jeremiah 13,

1. the Lord had Jeremiah take a sash and
2. put it in a hole in a rock by the Euphrates River.
 - a) Later, the Lord told Jeremiah to go back to the Euphrates and
 - b) recover the sash that he had buried.
3. The sash was now ruined and profitable for nothing.
 - a) Then He made this application
 - b) to the kingdom of Judah:

9 Thus says the LORD: “In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. 10 This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash

which is profitable for nothing.”

– Jeremiah 13.8–10

G. Jeremiah 16 shows

1. that the Lord considered Israel following the dictates of their hearts
2. as worse than something in the past:

12 “And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.”

– Jeremiah 16.12

- a) He let them know
- b) that though their fathers had been evil,
 - (1) they were more so,
 - (2) partly because they followed the dictates of their own evil hearts.
 - (a) See that is the problem with the heart.
 - (b) It is not consistent.
 - i) Today it might lead us in the right way, but
 - ii) tomorrow it might decide that was not a good way to go.

H. Jeremiah 17 shows

1. the main problem with the human heart.
2. If what the Lord says here
 - a) was said about anything or anyone else,
 - b) it would be obvious to us
 - (1) that we should not follow such a thing.
 - (2) However, because it is our heart,
 - (a) we deceive ourselves into believing

(b) that it is okay:

**9 “The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?**

**10 I, the LORD, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings.”**

– Jeremiah 17.9–10

3. Is that not right?

a) We can persuade ourselves

b) that something is harmless or even good,

(1) although we know that the word of God speaks against it.

(2) That is why the heart is deceitful above all things.

I. In Jeremiah 18,

1. the Lord wanted Jeremiah to speak to the people, telling them

a) that the Lord was devising a plan against them and

b) that they needed to repent.

2. However, what was their response?

12 And they said, “That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.”

– Jeremiah 18.12

a) Do you know the result?

b) Do you know the result of all these passages in Jeremiah?

(1) As a result of Judah following the dictates of their hearts,

(2) they suffered the worst thing that the Jews had ever suffered,

(a) an all out attack from the world’s superpower,

(b) the mighty Babylonian army led by the great king Nebuchadnezzar.

J. Jeremiah 23 shows

1. that the Lord knew how they were talking among themselves,
2. that they believed nothing bad would happen to them:

**17 “They continually say to those who despise Me,
‘The LORD has said, You shall have peace’;
And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own
heart, they say,
‘No evil shall come upon you.’”**

– Jeremiah 23.17

- a) Whoever said those things in Jerusalem,
- b) obviously spoke lies.

K. Think about it, brethren.

1. From where does our sin emanate?
2. Does it not come from the heart?

19 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

– Matthew 15.19

- a) Is that something worthy of our trust?
- b) It is something that needs converting!

II. The Authority on Belief, Trust, and Faith

A. Brethren, what is the ultimate authority on belief, trust, and faith?

1. What book can I read
 - a) that will teach me everything
 - b) that I need to know about belief, faith, and trust?

2. You know what it is.
3. Do I have to say it to this crowd?

B. It is the Scriptures that we call the Bible.

1. Where then do we find the Bible ever encouraging belief, trust, or faith
2. in one's heart?
 - a) I have just shown you
 - b) that the Bible actually discourages such.

C. What do you find the Scriptures teaching?

1. It is always belief in the Lord.
2. We are told that we should trust the Lord with the whole heart.
 - a) Truly, the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
 - b) labors to get us to believe in the Lord.
 - (1) This is such an important point to Him
 - (2) that He says it is necessary for salvation!

Exhortation:

I. The heart is not a compass.

A. Or perhaps it is, but

1. it is a Jack Sparrow, excuse me, a Captain Jack Sparrow compass.
2. His compass does not point North but
 - a) it points to the thing you want most in this world.
 - b) Our hearts are biased toward self-interest.
 - (1) Therefore, they will not lead us
 - (2) to follow the Lord and His righteousness.

B. The human heart is about self.

1. It wants to gratify self.
2. It wants to honor self.

C. Therefore, it will deceive us and lead us astray.

1. We cannot rely upon the heart to save us,
2. we need to be saved from our hearts.

II. God designed our hearts,

A. not to lead, but

B. to follow.

1. That is just the nature of the human heart.
2. The heart is suppose to believe not to be believed in.

III. That is why in John 14,

A. you will find some of the most comforting words in the Bible

B. showing where to place our belief.

1. People love to hear these words at funerals.
2. They give such comfort:

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”

– John 14.1

- a) Do not believe in your heart, but
- b) in your heart and with all your heart,
 - (1) believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) He is the One who will lead to the mansions up above.

IV. You will discover in Jeremiah 3,

A. that while the Lord was warning the Jews of impending doom

B. for following the dictates of their hearts,

1. He also foretold of a time
2. when they would forsake such thinking:

17 “At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.”

– Jeremiah 3.17

- a) That is what I am urging you to do today.
- b) Follow the Lord.