|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Proverbs 3:5-6 (CTW)  Psalm 103:1-18 | The Heart of God | Pinelands – 9am – 04/05/2025 |

When you say…

Someone has a good heart… What are we saying? *(response)*

Someone has a heart for gardening…

What are we saying? *(response)*

*(Same for… Aeroplanes, the poor, the church, Park run)*

When we say those things…

We are describing their Character…

Deeper than just who they are or what they look like.

We are describing who this person is… on the inside / deep down.

So today I want to talk about the **HEART of GOD.**

On the one hand this is very SIMPLE

***BUT…*** On the other hand it is very COMPLICATED

So where to begin…?

Well we have just recently Celebrated Easter… let us begin there.

The HEART of GOD is to SAVE the WORLD

**John 3:16… *“For God loved the world so much that he gave***

***his only Son, so that everyone who believes***

***in him may not die but have eternal life.”***

Jesus died on the Cross to save the WORLD

We look at our world and we know it needs saving…

Wars, Famine, Injustice,

Chaos, Confusion, Poverty and Need…

all over the world… Our World needs saving!

Jesus also died on the Cross to save those in the WORLD,

Kings, Queens, Rulers,

Beggars, Workers, Adults,

Children, Uber Drivers, Farmers,

All over the world… People need saving!

Jesus died on the Cross to save SINNERS…

Liars, Cheats, Robbers,

Murderers, Dictators, Manipulators,

Tax Evaders, Gossipers, Betrayers,

All over the world… SINNERS need saving!

**The HEART of GOD is to SAVE**

Then I am remindered of 2 really horrible verses in Scripture…

**James 2:10 – *“Whoever breaks one commandment***

***is guilty of breaking them all.”***

**Romans 3:23 - *“Everyone has sinned and is far away from***

***God’s saving presence.”***

Jesus died on the Cross to save ***SINNERS…*** to SAVE US…

**We are SINNERS**

I think we **sometimes struggle** with saying… We SIN

We are SINNERS

We like to list the sins of others before our own.

Look… He committed murder, I only told a lie.

She committed adultery, I only looked.

He committed a robbery, I just took a pen.

They were disrespectful and rude,

I only do it once in awhile.

**Do you see what we do?**

We downplay our Sinfulness ***TO..*** Justify what we do.

I am a Sinner, You are a Sinner… WE ARE ALL SINNERS

We then take it even further…

WE OFTEN… Compare ourselves to those around us…

They SIN more… than I do

They have more… than I do

They earn more… than I do… Justifying ourselves

Have you ever asked the question…

***“Why do bad things happen to good people?”***

And on the other hand… don’t we sometimes think….

***“Why are good things happening to bad people?”***

Now, when we ask those questions,

we ***NEVER EVER,*** include ourselves as **part of** the bad people.

**BAD people** are those who…

commit murder, steal, and are destructive people in our world.

Those are the people we see on the news, the Internet or

read about on social media.

***BUT…*** **WE ARE ALL SINNERS**

**The HEART of GOD… Is to SAVE**

**The HEART of GOD… Does not COMPARE**

Another Horrible verse is found in **Matthew 5:45…**

***“Your Father in heaven makes his sun to shine on bad***

***and good people alike, and gives rain to those who***

***do good and to those who do evil.”***

**The HEART of GOD… Does not COMPARE…**

That is HOW GOD WORKS !!

In **Isaiah 55:8-9…** ***GOD DECLARES…***

***“My thoughts,” says the Lord, “are not like yours,***

***and my ways are different from yours.***

***As high as the heavens are above the earth,***

***so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.***

God’s ways are not our ways, His thought are not our thoughts.

Everything He does is bigger and better than us…

even if we don’t understand or even agree with Him

That might cause us to ask a deeper question… **“IS GOD FAIR?”**

***NO!* GOD IS *NOT* FAIR!**

Scripture talks about this often…

The vineyard owner pays those who worked only one hour

The same as those who worked all day*… (Matt 20:1-16)*

**That is not Fair**

Jesus said those who serve will be greater than those

Who Rule… *(John 13)*

**That is not Fair**

Jesus said to the Sinner Thief on the cross…

*“Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)*

**That is not Fair**

God is **NOT** always fair. However, **God is always JUST!!**

If God was always fair, He would give us what we deserve… as SINNERS

***BUT…*** Because **He is JUST,**

He sent Jesus who became the atoning sacrifice for us.

**The HEART of GOD… Is to SAVE**

**The HEART of GOD… Does not COMPARE**

**The HEART of GOD… Is JUST**

As I read **Psalm 103:1-18** again… *(From The Message)*

**Listen for the Heart of God…**

1-2

O my soul, bless God.

From head to toe, I’ll bless his holy name!

O my soul, bless God,

don’t forget a single blessing!

3-5

He forgives your sins—every one.

He heals your diseases—every one.

He redeems you from hell—saves your life!

He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown.

He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal.

He renews your youth—you’re always young in his presence.

6-18

God makes everything come out right;

he puts victims back on their feet.

He showed Moses how he went about his work,

opened up his plans to all Israel.

God is sheer mercy and grace;

not easily angered, he’s rich in love.

He doesn’t endlessly nag and scold,

nor hold grudges forever.

He doesn’t treat us as our sins deserve,

nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.

As high as heaven is over the earth,

so strong is his love to those who fear him.

And as far as sunrise is from sunset,

he has separated us from our sins.

As parents feel for their children,

God feels for those who fear him.

He knows us inside and out,

keeps in mind that we’re made of mud.

Men and women don’t live very long;

like wildflowers they spring up and blossom,

But a storm snuffs them out just as quickly,

leaving nothing to show they were here.

God’s love, though, is ever and always,

eternally present to all who fear him,

Making everything right for them and their children

as they follow his Covenant ways

and remember to do whatever he said.

**Did you HEAR… The Heart of GOD?**

**Did you HEAR… The Heart of…**

GRACE ? COMPASSION ?

MERCY ? UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ?

SALVATION ? REDEMPTION ?

**The HEART of GOD… Is to SAVE**

**The HEART of GOD… Does not COMPARE**

**The HEART of GOD… Is JUST**

***GOD’s LOVE*** is beyond anything we can ever imagine.

Our God is not a heartless God.

Our God doesn't just love you. **HE IS LOVE.**

**It's not what He does, It's who He is.**

**Psalm 103:1-18** **The Love of God**

Praise the Lord, my soul!

All my being, praise his holy name!

Praise the Lord, my soul,

and do not forget how kind he is.

He forgives all my sins

and heals all my diseases.

He keeps me from the grave

and blesses me with love and mercy.

He fills my life with good things,

so that I stay young and strong like an eagle.

The Lord judges in favour of the oppressed

and gives them their rights.

He revealed his plans to Moses

and let the people of Israel see his mighty deeds.

The Lord is merciful and loving,

slow to become angry and full of constant love.

He does not keep on rebuking;

he is not angry forever.

He does not punish us as we deserve

or repay us according to our sins and wrongs.

As high as the sky is above the earth,

so great is his love for those who honour him.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far does he remove our sins from us

As a father is kind to his children,

so the Lord is kind to those who honour him.

He knows what we are made of;

he remembers that we are dust.

As for us, our life is like grass.

We grow and flourish like a wild flower;

then the wind blows on it, and it is gone—

no one sees it again.

But for those who honour the Lord, his love lasts forever,

and his goodness endures for all generations

of those who are true to his covenant

and who faithfully obey his commands

**Call to Worship**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.