

These Jews highly valued this centurion because of his kindness

Jesus agreed to go, but then was met with a most unusual request

Lord, don't trouble yourself.... But just say the word and my servant will be healed - vs. 6-7

I understand authority, and I believe you have it

Two things stand out in this story

this centurion is a man of great humility

this centurion is a man of great faith in Jesus' power

Jesus was amazed at him and said, "I have not found such great faith even in Israel - vs. 9

What Does Jesus Know About the Human Heart?

1. ***The heart is deceitful above all things, and beyond cure*** - Jeremiah 17:9

2. ***Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts*** - Psalm 139:23

we will only pray this way if we trust the One who searches us

God searches us so that he can do the necessary repairs

3. ***A broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise*** - Psalm 51:17

The Lord detests all the proud of heart - Proverbs 16:5

4. ***I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees*** - Ezekiel 36:26

God does the transplanting

we know we have this new heart when we want to be obedient

5. ***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*** - Matthew 5:8

God is constantly purifying our hearts by his Holy Spirit

CONCLUSION

Where are you on this continuum? In which direction are you moving?

WHAT JESUS BELIEVES ABOUT THE HUMAN HEART

INTRODUCTION

What do you do when you get to the heart of a matter?

To what is the Bible referring when it uses the word heart?
character, personality, will, inner being

the authentic person, source of desires, deliberations & decisions

What is the human heart like? What are its capabilities?

MATTHEW 15:15-20

The heart is capable of great evil

it's not the food that enters our mouth that defiles us
as good caretakers of the gift of life we should eat healthy

don't force food preferences on others for spiritual reasons

what defiles us is what comes out from our hearts

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander - vs. 19

LUKE 6:43-45

The heart is capable of both evil and good
bad trees only produce bad fruit

good trees only produce good fruit

what is critically important is the condition of our hearts

For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks - vs. 45c

LUKE 7:1-10

The centurion was a non-commissioned officer in the Roman army
he highly valued a servant who was near death

he sent the elders of the Jews to ask Jesus for a miracle