Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for February 9, 2025

Sermon Notes

The Heart of the KING

1 Kings 15:1-24

I saw the headline this week, "Heart Disease Remains top cause of Death in US, report finds." Let's talk about heart health today. But not the physical heart. It's time for a spiritual check-up.

As goes the Kings, so goes the nation. If the heart determines the course of the KING, it determines the course of the nation. What we see today and will continue to see, is that God cares about the heart of the King. We will consider two Kings of Judah today. Two kings, two king's hearts, but not two of a kind.

Biblically, the heart is the core of the person and it refers to a person's relationship with God. Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life." That is for everything you do flows from your heart. It determines the course of your life. The heart is the rudder of the ship of our lives. God cares about the heart of the King, and God cares about my heart and your heart. As a Prophet told one of our Kings today, "For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth to show himself strong for those who are wholeheartedly devoted to him." (2 Chron. 16:9). God deserves nothing less than our wholehearted devotion to Him.

I. A Divided Heart

- 1. Goes the way of sin
- 2. Chooses to follow ungodly examples
- 3. Experiences the consequences of sin

II. An Undivided Heart

- 1. Pursues Obedience
- 2. Rightly Responds to Sin
- 3. Prioritizes Worship of the Lord
- 4. Trusts God and therefore, Acts in Faith
- III. The Faithful and Merciful Heart of the LORD

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you(all) richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..." - Colossians 3:16a

- Focus #I : GOD

- / What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
- \mathcal{L} What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
- 3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2 : ME -

- ${\cal 4}\cdot$ How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
- \mathcal{S} In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
- $\emph{6}$ What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

- 7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
- \mathscr{E} How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group or church family from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

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Westwood Staff

Jonathan Taylor: Lead Pastor Jason Engle: Teaching Pastor Matthew Welch: Director of Music & Student Ministries Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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FEBRUARY

14-15 Trail Life Lock in 15 Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ 7am **21 Membership Class @ 6pm** 22 Hispanic WMU Conference 23 Children's Church & Communion <u>MARCH</u> 5 Life Together @ 6:30pm 6 Life Choices Banquet @ 6pm 9 Daylight Saving Time begins