

8—Hearts of Flesh

6/11/23

INTRO:

I. → **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

*24 "For I will take you out of the nations;
I will gather you from all the countries
and bring you back into your own land.
I will sprinkle clean water on you,
and you will be clean;
I will cleanse you from all your impurities
and from all your **idols.**"*

*→ 26 "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
and be careful to keep my laws."*

*→ 28 "Then you will live in the land
I gave your ancestors;
you will be my people,
and I will be your God."*

II. How did our hearts get hard in the first place?

III. **KILLERS SONG "HUMAN"**

A. "America is raising a generation of dancers, afraid to take one step out of line."—Hunter S. Thompson

B. "Are we human, or are we dancer?"

BODY:

I. **Distraction to Devotion**

*24 "For I will take you out of the **nations**;
I will gather you from all the countries
and bring you back into your own land.
25 I will sprinkle clean water on you,*

*and you will be clean;
I will cleanse you from all your impurities
and from **all your idols**.*

A. Our hearts can be led astray by things that don't matter.

1) **Ezekiel 11:18-19**

*"They will return to [the land] and remove all its vile images and **detestable idols**. I will give them an **undivided heart** and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh."*

2) **GOD REBOOTING ISRAEL DURING THE EXILE**

B. Anything that crowds out God can become an idol for us.

1) **Mark 4:18-19**

"Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful."

2) **COVID PARING US DOWN TO THE ESSENTIALS**

3) **THE NEIGHBORS MOVING AWAY AND BACK AGAIN**

II. Obstinace to Obedience

27 *"And my spirit I will put within you,
and I will cause to in my statues to **walk**, (yalak)
and my judgments to **hear** and **do**." (shamar, asah)*

A. The more we resist Him the harder our hearts become.

1) **Romans 1:28**

*Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, so that they do what ought not to be done.*

2) **THE GRADUAL ROAD TO DEPRAVITY**

B. His Spirit restores our sensitivity to His gentle conviction.

1) **Hebrews 3:12-13**

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But

*encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today,"
so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

2) ASKING THE LORD TO RESTORE THE CONVICTION

III. **Contention to Contentment**

28 "Then **you will live** in the land
I gave your ancestors;
you **will be** my people,
and I **will be** your God."

A. Pride and ego can lead to a sense of entitlement.

1) **Hebrews 13:5**

*Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content
with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I
leave you; never will I forsake you."*

2) THE KING DAVID SYNDROME

3) THE JERK—"ALL I NEED"

B. A contented heart is blessed in every circumstance.

1) **Philippians 4:12-13**

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every
situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in
plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives
me strength.*

2) DAD ASKING FOR A TRACTOR INSTEAD OF LIGHT PLANT

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 95:7-10

Today, if only you would hear his voice,
“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,
where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.
For forty years I was angry with that generation.”

Luke 21:34

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing,
drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you
suddenly like a trap.”

Romans 2:5-6

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you
are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation
of the righteous judgment of God. (NKJV)

Ephesians 4:18

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life
of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of
their hearts.

James 3:14-16

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not
boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come
down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where
you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every
evil practice.