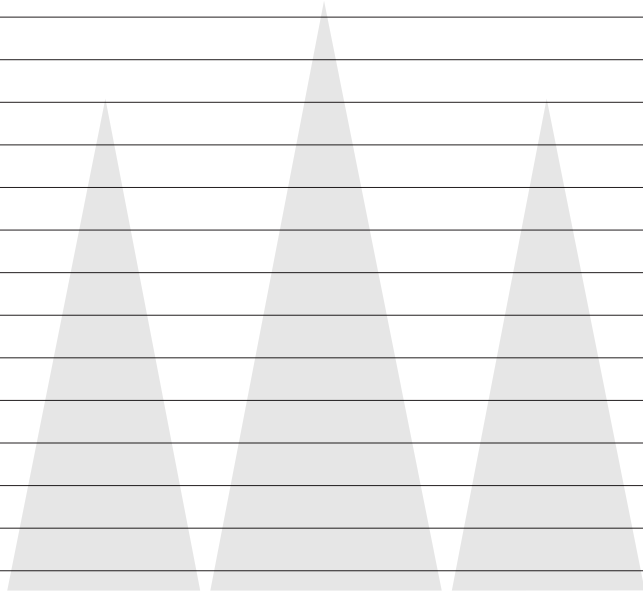


## Notes:



## Your Stolen Heart

by Ron Brick

The stolen heart is a half hearted, lukewarm heart. We were all created by God for God. He gave us life. Our hearts belong to Him. However, He has also given us the power of choice. We can chose to steal our hearts away from Him. You can steal your heart away from God and give it to another. You can give it to His enemy: Satan. In scripture this act of rebellion, betrayal, treason, the worship of someone or something else, other than God, is called idolatry. It is a violation of the first commandment.

*Exodus 20:3*

*"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

When Judas was put in charge of the money box, he was being tested by Jesus. Would he fall to the temptation to steal from it. Would he serve and obey Christ or would he serve the love or idolatry of money and steal. He chose to steal. However, before stealing from the money box, he first stole his heart away from Christ.

*John 12 : 3*

*Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.*

*4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil*

*not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because **he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.***

Ananias and Sapphira also stole. They held back their hearts from a full and total commitment to Christ, when they lied to the Apostles, saying they had given all, but in truth had both plotted to keep back some of the money. This is the picture of the Christian who pledges a whole heart commitment to Christ, but holds back a portion of their heart for the worship of self.

*Matthew 16 : 25*

*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

*Acts 5 : 1*

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land **for yourself?***

In the Old Testament, in the book of

Malachi, we find another example of half hearted worship.

*Malachi 1:14*

*“But cursed be the deceiver*

*Who has in his flock a male,*

*And takes a vow,*

*But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—For I am a great King,”*

*“And My name is to be feared among the nations.*

This example tells us that in service and worship, God demands the whole heart. A half hearted sacrifice is a blemished sacrifice, blemished worship.

*Matthew 15:18*

*18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come **from the heart**, and they defile a man.*

*Matthew 22:37*

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with **all thy heart**, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

A whole heart sacrifice is a true heart. It becomes a righteous heart. Cleansed by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. A whole heart forges a true identification with Christ. Christ gave his whole heart to the Father on the cross. With a full and true sacrifice the Christian forges a full and true union with Christ and the Father. A half heart will not, can not, make the bridge and close the rebellion,

idolatry, sin gap. When Christ returns the half hearted or lukewarm Christian will be left behind.

*Matthew 24:40*

*Then two men will be in the field: (the same church), one will be taken and the other left.*

*41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: (the same church), one will be taken and the other left.*

*Revelation 3:16*

*So then, because you are lukewarm, (half hearted) and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

*Matthew 15:8*

*‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth,*

*And honour Me (lie to Me) with their lips, But their **heart** is far from Me.*

The Christian is often not working for God. They are in stead working for the idol they serve from the heart. With Judas it was money. First from the money box, then thirty pieces of silver from the elders and chief priest, to betray Christ. With the rich young ruler it was also money. (*Luke 18: 18 - 23*) With Saul it was the praise of the people. David, on the other hand, demonstrated a true heart fully in love with God. Samuel speaking to Saul said:

*1 Samuel 13:14*

*But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for*

*Himself **a man after His own heart**, (David) and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”*

The church, the kingdom of God, will in these last days be torn away from the half hearted Sauls, and given to a David company. A David company that has been tested in the wilderness and who have proven to have hearts that are fully given to God.

It is easy to lie to yourself and others with help of a self serving religious spirit, (demon).

*Luke 11:35*

*Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.*

It is easy to become a Sunday morning gladhander. All smiles in the face of your Christian brothers and sisters on Sunday, as you practise character assassination behind their backs from Monday to Saturday with your tongue. Covered with a religious mask, the true intent of your heart is hidden. You become like Judas hiding your betrayal behind a warm smile, embrace and a kiss. Christian, who is your heart really serving, God or His enemy: the devil? Jesus rebuked the very pious religious leaders of His day who thought they knew God and were serving Him.

*John 8 : 44*

*You are of your father the devil, and the desires (from the heart) of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

*Jeremiah 17:9*

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

The stolen heart, is a heart that is divided. It is black and white and straddling the fence. In these last days, this heart, the half hearted, is going to be torn in two. You will be forced to one side of the fence or the other. You will jump into the deep end of the pool, with God, or fall away completely. The stolen heart will not survive. You will no longer be allowed to steal from God. You will no longer be able to serve two masters.

*Matthew 6:24*

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

To all the half hearted Christians, give your whole heart back to God. Stop stealing from Him. Jesus is coming to His church with a whip. He is shouting to His church, *“you have made my Fathers house **a den of thieves**”!* Give Me back **your stolen heart**.