

Meridian First Baptist

Sunday Morning • March 28, 2021

David W. Hegg

The Parable of the 4 Hearts

Mark 4:1-9, 13-20

Introduction: When we study the life of Christ, we find the disciples are just like us when it comes to faith. They were living with the Living Word, Jesus, God the Son Incarnate and yet they were faithless. But the questions for us is this: *Could there be seasons in our lives when we don't benefit from the truth of God's Word?* Today we look at the Parable of the 4 Hearts and consider that, even as Christ-followers, we can exhibit all of these heart conditions.

Understanding the Heart ...

Understanding the Parable ...

1. *The Hard Heart:* vs. 4, 15

2. *The Shallow Heart:* vs. 5, 16, 17

3. *The Divided Heart:* vs. 7, 18, 19

4. *The Pure Heart:* vs. vs. 8, 20

*"Lord, let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psa. 19:14*

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Adult Sunday School • March 28, 2021

David W. Hegg

Trusting God in the Dark

Psalms 42 and 43

Introduction: Knowing God uses his Word to shape us, and is the Shepherd whose relentless love provides, protects, and guides us still does not mean we will be immune to trials and tragedy, despair and despondency. But are we left to overwhelming sadness without hope? Psalms 42 and 43 give us both the freedom to express our despair, and the path to turning it into joy and praise.

Understanding Psalms 42 and 43 ...

Strophe #1: *I love you God, but life hurts right now: 42:1-4*

Chorus: *The conversation begins: 42:5*

Strophe #2: *I am despairing and overwhelmed: 42:6-10*

Chorus: *The conversation continues: 42:11*

Strophe #3: *I trust you God and leave it all to you: 43:1-4*

Chorus: *The conversation ends with sincere hope and trust: 43:5*

*Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;
from the end of the earth I call to you
when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,
for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.
Psalm 61:1-3*

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Sunday Evening • March 28, 2021

David W. Hegg

Gehazi: Corrupting God's Free Grace 2 Kings 5

Introduction: The story of Naaman the leper's miraculous healing usually centers on this soldier's transformation into a worshipper of God through obedience to the counsel of God's prophet Elisha. But is that all this story has for us? Tonight, we look at Elisha's servant Gehazi, and find a portrait of faith that is corrupted by selfish self-determinism.

The Context: *Catching up:* Chapters 2-5

1. The Cast and Story

2. Gehazi's Tragic Failure

3. Gehazi's Faith Portrait

Sinful Thinking:

Impulsive Action:

Deceitful Communication:

Tragic Failure:

4. Painting Our Faith Portrait

Define success as faithfulness

Trust God, and obey God out of an ever-deepening love for God