



Undivided Heart

"Therefore do not worry, saying 'what shall we eat?' or 'what shall we drink?' or 'what shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Math. 6:31-34

"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7

We are commanded by the Lord not to worry or to be anxious about our lives like the heathen. He says that we are rather to seek His kingdom and His righteousness and that HE will add to our life all the things that are needful as we sojourn on earth. He tells us to pray about everything rather than to get anxious. By doing this, God will keep our hearts and minds in perfect peace. It sounds like the Lord is telling us to stop all activities that make us anxious and simply to pray. That may be part of the picture, but it goes much deeper than that.

Most of us know what the symptoms of worry or anxiety are (same word in the orig.), and many people determine to make outward life changes to rid themselves of this "sickness", only to find themselves right back in the vicious cycle of its power. Few really know what the actual biblical cause of anxiety is and therefore cannot get free of its dominion. What does it really mean to be anxious about our lives? The key to understanding this "dis-ease" is revealed in the little, yet powerful word, worry in the original language ('merimnao'). This word which comes from the root 'mer' (part) can be linked to distraction, apportioning, dividing, disuniting or making a difference between. So when we hear the Lord telling us not to worry, He's not telling us to simply stop all our outward activities or our thoughts regarding the future, but He's going deeper into the true condition of our heart.

God is concerned above all else that our heart be not distracted or divided, much like a pie that is sliced and distributed between the many activities and people in our life: one section given to our job, one for our spouse, one for God, one for ministry, etc. In the end, everyone and everything receives a portion, but the Lord is just one section of the pie and not the whole, if even that! We have become anxious because we have lost that wholeness and peace that comes from fulfilling our first duty which is to love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, ALL our mind and ALL our strength. An undivided heart is actually the only true path towards fulfilling the first commandment.

A divided house/heart shall not stand. The enemy knows this and works hard to get us to divide up and apportion the areas of our life so that we will not have the power that comes from an integrated heart. When our heart gets divided up into shares, we also lose the deep sense that God is One and that we are to love Him in that oneness and our neighbor as ourself (in that same union love). The result of this dividedness and distraction is a disturbed (anxious) heart/mind that is thrown into tumult and much activity that drags us all around, a heart that cannot be still, sitting and listening at the Master's feet. Much of the church has the same anxiety and frenzied activity that comes out from a divided heart and mind that we see in the world and it ought not to be so.

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered (orig. dragged around) about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are careful and troubled ('merimnao') about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 10:38-42*

Here we see a picture of a divided heart (Martha) and an undivided one (Mary). So many in the body are like Martha, inwardly divided and outwardly dragged around by much activity, thinking that this busyness is pleasing to the Lord, convinced that others who are waiting at the Lord's feet are simply lazy or unwilling to come alongside the busier ones. This is not a new phenomenon.

When Moses, in obedience to the word of the Lord, declares to Pharaoh, "Let my people go that they may worship Me" Pharaoh refuses saying that the people are lazy (idle) and for that reason, they want to leave their work to sacrifice to the Lord. The Lord was desiring to transform His people from being worker-slaves to becoming worshipper-priests. Pharaoh (a type of Satan) tried to convince God's people that it was laziness to "simply" worship the Lord with a whole heart rather than to be busy and divided with something "more constructive" like building great edifices through the sweat of the brow.

Satan will always try to convince God's people that worshipping the Lord with a whole heart is vanity or laziness and that there are more important and necessary things to do, even in advancing the Kingdom of God. But the Lord had commanded Moses and the people to leave Egypt (the world) to go to make a feast to Him on the mountain. Pharaoh says, "Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words." Moses had heard the living word of the Lord while he was on the backside of the desert, but now the enemy lays more work on the people to convince them that it is foolish to regard the words of the Lord. Exo. 5:1-9

But Mary sat at the Lord's feet with an undivided and undistracted heart and listened to His word. Martha SERVED, but Mary HEARD. Martha was dragged all around serving (and complaining), but Mary sat and listened and when she did, she heard God! Most believers don't sit and listen long enough to really hear the word of the Lord. They are too distracted and divided in heart. "Man will not live by bread alone, but by every rhema that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Math. 4:4. Mary learned that her true life consisted in hearing the word of His mouth that flowed out of the abundance of His heart and not from the bread that perishes. Her meat was to hear that word and to do it.

True divine love can never flow out of a divided and distracted heart which metes out only a portion to the Lord and to others. True divine love can only flow out of a whole healed heart that knows no measure and no minimum, but extravagantly pours out it's all to the Lord. By its very nature, God's perfect love can never flow in part.

"For we know in part and we prophecy in part (another root of 'merimnao', divided). But when that which is perfect (finished; whole; mature; Christ Himself) is come, then that which is in part will be done away." I Cor. 13:9

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." I Cor. 13:12

When our hearts let go of all dividedness, when we truly desire and are willing to live out from the new heart, His heart, we will no longer see Him dimly, but face to face. We will know as we have been known and we will know one another after the Spirit/heart of God and not through our old wounded and shattered selves.

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