



2019 Summer Sermon Series: The Tablet of Your Heart

***Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart. Proverbs 3:3***

Note for Group Leaders:

The summer sermon series runs through September 1, 2019. (See schedule below – sermon titles subject to change.) There are various preachers this summer and often no sermon transcripts available, so listen well and take good notes! These discussion guides are shorter than normal with fewer questions for each week. (All Scripture is ESV unless noted.)

As you listen to the sermon, you may come up with a few questions of your own.

1	July 6/7	Know Your Heart, Proverbs. 4:23; 27:19 Luke 6:43-45
2	July 13/14	Choose Service Over Selfishness, Proverbs 23:26
3	July 20/21	Choose Action vs. Apathy, Ephesians 4:17-24
4	July 27/28	Go to the Ant You Sluggard, Proverbs 6:6-11
5	August 3/4	The Discerning Heart, Proverbs 15:14; 1 Cor. 2:14; Heb. 4:12; 5:14
6	August 10/11	Choose Courage Over Fear, Proverbs 24:10-12
7	August 17/18	Choose God's Way Over Your Way, Proverbs 3:1-6
8	August 24/25	Choose Wisdom Over Foolishness, Proverbs 5:23
9	August 31-/9/1	Choose Generosity Over Greed, Proverbs 3:9-10

Here are some general discussion questions that you can use each week in addition to those provided:

- [Q] What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be: Most helpful? Eye opening? Troubling? Challenging? Explain.
- [Q] What does this passage/message tell you about God?
- [Q] How does this passage/message help you love and worship Jesus more?
- [Q] Has God shown you sin in your life that needs to be fought with His help?
- [Q] Is there any action you want to take as a result of the message and hearing the Word of God?

Also, this summer we are challenging everyone to read a chapter a day in Proverbs for 31 days!



1. July 7, 2019 | Know Your Heart

In the Bible, the word *heart* is used to describe, not just the emotions, but the inner life of a person. It includes:

- the mind (Luke 2:19)
- the desires (Psalm 62:10)
- the will (2 Chronicles 29:31)

[Q] Read the following passages and note the importance of the heart:

Proverbs 27:19

As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

1 Samuel 16:7

“... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Proverbs 4:23

*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (NIV)*

[Q] What happens if someone doesn't *guard* their heart? Are you care-less or care-full with your heart? Please explain.

Heart Problems

[Q] Read the following and note the problems of the human heart:

Luke 6:43-45

Jeremiah 17:9

[Q] Read Ezekiel 11:19-20. What does the heart need? What does *your* heart need?

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Pray



2. July 14, 2019 | Choose Service Over Selfishness

- [Q] What messages does our culture promote regarding putting yourself first?
How do these messages get into our thinking?
How do these messages appeal to our natural inclinations?

We Serve a God Who Serves

Read:

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Isaiah 64:4

No eye has seen a God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

Acts 17:24-25

God is not served by human hands as though he needed anything, but he himself gives life and breath and everything.

- [Q] From the following Scriptures, how do we need God to serve us, specifically? How willing is He to do so?

Isaiah 46:4

2 Chronicles. 16:9

Psalms 50:15

Serve One Another

- [Q] Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. As you serve others, what motivation comes from knowing that you are stewarding the gifts and grace that God has given you?

- [Q] In what areas of your life do you need to repent of being *self-serving*? What does God need to change in your heart so you can you serve people with love and joy?

- [Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Pray



3. July 21, 2019 | Choose Action Over Apathy

What is apathy? The definition is simple; it is the mindset of *I don't care!* It is caring nothing about others, ministry, spiritual growth, or what God wants of us. It is the misconception of the magnitude of His incredible gifts and His grace to us. And, as a result, we become lukewarm, disinterested, and non-committal. (Dr. Richard J. Krejcir at IntoThyWord.org)

[Q] What might apathy look like in a Christian's life? How does it affect one's desire for God, spiritual growth, or hunger for God's Word?

[Q] Discuss what you think might cause apathy:

- Overwork or overwhelmed
- Busy-ness
- Misconceptions about God: Fear, disappointment or distrust
- Laziness
- Self-pity
- Boredom

Take Action

[Q] Read the following and for each, note the call to action; what are we asked to *do*? What does someone's inaction say about them?

Proverbs 21:21

Ephesians 4:22-24

1 Peter 3:10-12

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

Pray



4. July 28, 2019 | Go to the Ant You Sluggard

Sluggard = Lazy Person

Read Proverbs 6:6-11:

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

⁷ It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,

⁸ yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

⁹ How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—

¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

[Q] Why is the ant a good example to study? What does it do?

[Q] From the following passages, describe the sluggard and the results of his/her sluggardliness.
Proverbs 10:4-5

Proverbs 26:14-16

Ecclesiastes 10:18

Diligent = Hard Worker

[Q] Describe the hard worker from the following passages:

Ephesians 5:15-17

Ecclesiastes 10: 10

Luke 16:10-12

Colossians 3:23

[Q] Have you found a balance between hard work and rest (Matthew 11:28-30)? Please explain.

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Pray



5. August 4, 2019 | The Discerning Heart

[Q] How would you define *discernment* from the following Scriptures?

Proverbs 10:13

Proverbs 15:14

Proverbs 16:21

1 Corinthians 2:14

[Q] Read Proverbs 17:27–28. Why do you think there is such a strong connection between discernment and the use of our words?

[Q] Where do you need more discernment?

The Source of Discernment

To have a discerning heart, we must know and understand what is true about God, from God's Word.

Read:

Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 5:12-14

Psalm 119:66

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

[Q] How can you increase your regular Bible intake? Share some ideas.

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Pray



6. August 11, 2019 | Choose Courage Over Fear

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Proverbs 24:10

Read:

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Isaiah 41:10

...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

[Q] God commands us not to fear. What promises does He make to us?

[Q] What reasons might Jesus have been tempted to fear here on earth? How did Jesus choose courage? What was the result?

[Q] Where or when do you need God's strength to face fear?

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Pray



7. August 18, 2019 | Choose God's Way Over My Way

Read Proverbs 3:1-7:

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,
for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.*

³ Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

[Q] How do we know what God's way is? What is the result of choosing God's way?

[Q] Read Philippians 2:12-16. What obstacles get in the way of choosing God's way over ours?

[Q] What are some examples of Jesus choosing God's way? What was the result for us?

[Q] How can we make God's ways our default choice every day? What promise of God do you need to keep trusting?

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart. Proverbs 21:2

Pray



8. August 25, 2019 | Choose Wisdom Over Foolishness

[Q] According to the following verses, what type of person does God think is foolish?

Psalm 14:1

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 1:22

Proverbs 5:23

[Q] Read Proverbs 2:1-15. How do we get wisdom? What are the benefits?

[Q] In what area of your life do you particularly need God's wisdom right now?

[Q] How do we get wisdom according to the following verses?

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

1 Corinthians 1:30–31

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

"Wisdom is Christ-empowered skill to live for the glory of God." — J.A. Medders

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you've learned?

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9. September 1, 2019 | Choose Generosity Over Greed

Read Proverbs 3:9–10:

⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

“‘honor’ means to acknowledge God’s weightiness, significance, and importance through our words and conduct. ...honoring God with our firstfruits means granting him priority over all our incoming wealth.” -- *A Proverbs Driven Life* by Anthony Selvaggio

[Q] Why does God ask us to give to Him generously? What does He want to grow in us?

[Q] What financial principles do you draw from the following verses?

Proverbs 13:7

Proverbs 14:31

Proverbs 23:4

Hebrews 13:5

[Q] How does giving help us to rely more on God than ourselves? Have you experienced this? Please explain.

[Q] In what ways did Jesus choose to be generous?

[Q] What is your main takeaway(s) from this lesson? What do you want to take to heart as you go forward? What are some steps you can take to apply what you’ve learned?

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