

## Heart Tests

### What is the “heart?”

***Not emotions contrasted to the mind or intellect as in western thought***

***But as several passages would show us, the heart is emotions, desires, imaginings, aspirations, discernment, thoughts, intellect, values, goals, expectations. This is what you pray about, dream about, get angry about when you don't get it.***

In short, all that makes up the “inner you.” The only person that knows it fully is God, but you also know your own heart, to some degree at least. Self deception is possible.

***It is the “command center” of your life.***

Guard your heart, for out of it are the issues of life.

***Like there are several tests for the physical heart, so in the Bible there are several tests for the spiritual heart.***

One is found in Matthew 6:21

*Your heart will be where your treasure is*

*Where is your heart?*

What do you imagine most frequently? What do you “fantasize” about most often? What trips your trigger, lights your fire, floats your boat most often? What do you dream of most often? What gets you up in the morning? What do you think about when you go to sleep at night? When you have “me time,” what do you do? Where do you plan to spend your money?

One is always drawn to what one values. What you value gains your devotion, your worship. True magnetic north of the soul, the current of your value system will always bring you to what you value.

Jesus explains the test further

*Not this (19):*

Treasure means “stockpile,” what's left over when all the bills are paid, when the day is done. Surplus or discretionary time and money.

*Do you build bigger and better*

***American Economy does that more than any other in the world***

**Don't put what's leftover in things that won't last**

***Either rust, mold, decay, be destroyed***

***Subject to natural forces***

**Don't put what's leftover in things that can be stolen**

***Subject to evil human forces.***

***What was Jesus prohibiting?***

**Not a ban on possessions themselves.**

**But it is a storing up, a hoarding, a consuming control and domination with these things that our lord warns us against.**

***But this, 20***

**Where are you stockpiling things?**

**Investing time in things that have eternal value?**

**When you get a bonus...**

***So where is your heart?***

***Will you look today and tomorrow at where your heart is? At where you stockpile what's left over? Will you write it down and take this test?***

***Will you ask how much of it is invested in things of eternal value?***

***Will you ask God to help you invest your time, talents, and energy in things of eternal value?***