

“Go and examine your heart” Jeremiah 17:9-10 Dum Clamarem 2025

Grace, peace and mercy be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today’s message is both a warning and a wake-up call. It’s a message of grace and truth, of challenge and invitation. The title of today’s sermon is “Go and Examine Your Heart.” We live in a world that tells us to “follow our heart.” But what if the heart we’re following is broken, bent toward sin, and far from God? What if the very core of our being—our heart—is deceitful and desperately wicked? The prophet Jeremiah delivers a piercing word from the Lord that shatters illusions of self-righteousness and points us to our desperate need for a Saviour.

Jeremiah refers to the deceitful heart saying, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9) Jeremiah prophesied to Judah during a time of great idolatry and hypocrisy. Outwardly, the people claimed to follow God, but inwardly, their hearts were far from Him. This verse is a divine diagnosis of human nature. “Deceitful” (Hebrew: *aqob*) – from the same root as Jacob’s name, meaning twisted, insidious, or crooked. “Desperately sick” (Hebrew: *’anash*) – meaning incurable, sick beyond remedy.

Have you ever looked at a beautiful apple on the outside, only to bite into it and find rot inside? The outside looked perfect, but inside, decay had taken over. That’s the condition of the human heart without God. “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.” (Proverbs 16:2) We can deceive others. We can even deceive ourselves. But we cannot deceive God.

Reverend Tim Keller once wrote, “The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” That’s the tension we live in. Our hearts are deceitful, but God’s grace is greater. The truth is sobering—but so is the hope.

God tells us in this scripture passage that He is the All-Knowing God. “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind” (Jeremiah 17:10a) God doesn’t just observe actions; He reads hearts. The word search (Hebrew: *chaqar*) means to explore deeply. God doesn’t glance—He investigates. In Hebrew understanding, the heart (*lev*) is not just the seat of emotions, but the centre of the intellect, will, and moral character. God examines not only what we do but why we do it.

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Imagine a courtroom where every thought, every intention, every motive is played on a screen before the judge. That’s God’s level of scrutiny. Yet in His mercy, He invites us not to hide from Him—but to run to Him. “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13)

As I think about it, God’s plan for enlarging His kingdom is so simple—one person telling another about the Saviour. Yet we’re busy and full of excuses. Just remember, someone’s eternity is at stake. We must not delay in responding to the One who already knows everything about us—and loves us still.

God rewards based on what people do. “[I] give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (Jeremiah 17:10b) That’s terrifying. If we were rewarded according to our actions, none of us would stand. But Jesus took our sin, bore our punishment, and offers us His righteousness. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” (Romans 3:23–24)

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Peter 2:24 NLT). He freely makes us right (Greek: dikaió) – to declare righteous, to justify. Imagine a debtor standing before a judge with an unpayable fine. But the judge steps down, takes off his robe, and pays the fine himself. That’s the Gospel. Justice satisfied. Mercy extended. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It’s about being reconciled to Him. That reconciliation only comes through Christ. There is no other way.

God calls us to Examine Ourselves. “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Corinthians 13:5) We must look inward with the help of the Holy Spirit and ask: Is Jesus truly Lord of my life? Have I trusted in His finished work or am I trusting in myself?

We need to pray continually that God will assist us with this work, for it is beyond our own means. “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10) God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus. Our heart needs not just mending, but remaking. A new heart. A heart like Christ’s.

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Friends, you may have tried to fix yourself. You may have covered your brokenness with religion, good works, or busyness. But God sees your heart.

And here is the Good News:

Jesus came for hearts like yours.

He lived a sinless life.

He died in your place.

He rose again to conquer death.

And He offers you a new heart—a heart made alive by grace.

Romans 10:9: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” You can’t save yourself. But Jesus can. And He will—if you repent and trust in Him. So, examine your heart. Ask the Lord to search and know you. Confess what needs to be confessed. Surrender afresh. Cry out: “Lord, give me a new heart!” And He will.

May the God who sees all things, who searches our hearts and offers mercy through Jesus Christ, grant you the grace to walk in truth, humility, and obedience. Go in peace, go in faith. Go and Examine Your Heart.

Amen.