





Jesus said, “You too, **be ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.” Luke 12:40

We believe Jesus’ promise that He is coming for His Church. We need to be ready for His arrival. In what areas of life do you need to get ready?



Get Ready My Heart

Matthew 22:34-40



But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Matthew 22:34-36



Jewish Law

- The first 5 books of the Old Testament, written by Moses, were considered the “Law”
- All other Old Testament books categorized as “Prophets”
- Rabbis had developed 613 laws
 - 248 affirmative laws, one for every part of human body
 - 365 negative laws, one for every day of the year
- People were asking, “Which one should I follow?”



Jesus said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE (Greek “agape”) THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE (“agape”) YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:37-40



- Jesus' answer comes from the Shema (Hebrew for "hear"), which faithful Jews quote twice each day, in the morning and evening.
- "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love (Hebrew "aheb") the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ. ה' אֶחָד



‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ Matthew 22:37

- All = completeness, every area of life
- Heart = the core of one’s personal being, one’s spirit
- Soul = one’s emotions
- Mind = mental endeavor and energy, also encompassing one’s strength; learn to think critically and biblically

The Message: Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.”



“Love the Lord your God”

Ask:

- What would my life look like if I was totally, completely, unashamedly in love with Jesus?
- How would my thoughts change?
- How would my words change?
- How would my actions change?
- How would my daily routine change?
- How would my heart change?



“Love your neighbor as yourself”

Jesus said that love for God is the distinguishing characteristic of a believer whose heart has been changed through salvation.

- **Does** my love for God affect my treatment of other people?
- **How does** my love for God affect my treatment of other people?

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8



Jesus said, "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:40

10 Commandments

Exodus 20:3-17

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

*Commandments #1-4 pertain to one's relationship with God



Jesus said, “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 22:40

10 Commandments

Exodus 20:3-17

5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet

*Commandments #5-10 pertain to one's relationship with others



January 2016

kardia

A HEART GIVEN, A HEART DEVOTED

What is the heart?

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Proverbs 23:7



Your Spiritual Heart

- The word "Heart" (Hebrew *lebab*, Greek *kardia*) occurs over one thousand times in the Bible, making it the most common anthropological term in the Scripture.
- "Man looks at the outward appearance, " says Samuel, "but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). The Lord searches all hearts to reward all according to their conduct (Jeremiah 17:10). In the time of judgment God will expose the hidden counsels of the heart (1 Corinthians 4:5).
- The heart is the center of emotions, feelings, moods, and passions. Equated with the heart are joy (Deut. 28:47; Acts 2:26), grief (Ps. 13:2; Lam. 2:11), ill-temper (Deut. 15:10), love (Phil. 1:7), courage (2 Sam. 17:10; Ps. 27:14), and fear (Gen. 42:28).
- The heart's function as the source of thought and reflection highlights its intellectual capacities (Isa. 6:10; Mark 7:21-23). The heart understands (Deut. 8:5; Isa. 42:25), provides wisdom to rule justly and wisely (1 Kings 3:12; 10:24), and discerns good and evil (1 Kings 2:44).
- The heart represents volition and conscience (1 Sam. 24:5; 2 Sam. 24:10).
- The request for a pure heart is the desire for a new and more perfect conscience (Ps. 51:10; Matt. 5:8). Since the heart is the center for decisions (2 Sam. 7:21), obedience, devotion, and intentionality, it represents the total person.
- Within the heart, human beings meet God's word (1 Sam. 12:24; Jer. 32:40) and thus it is the location where conversion takes place (Ps. 51:10; Joel 2:12; Acts 2:37).



Reasons for a human heart transplant

In medical terms...

“Heart transplantation is performed to replace a failing heart that cannot be adequately treated by other means.”

In spiritual terms...

If what is inside you is hurt or ill or broken, you need something new from the outside.

“knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:18-19



Heart transplantation procedures

- After receiving a heart transplant, patients should take medicine every day to ensure a healthy future and consistency.
- This heart medicine requires PILLS.
- After receiving a spiritual heart transplant from the Savior Jesus, patients should take medicine every day to ensure a healthy future and consistency.
- This heart medicine requires PILLS.
- As a church family, let's commit to protecting our new spiritual hearts.



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

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Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray

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Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Pray

- For Jesus to be honored and glorified
- For your own spiritual walk to be deepened
- For your family members and friends to love God
- For the salvation of other people by name
- For the Holy Spirit to move mightily through our church
- For revival in our nation each night at 2016 hours



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray
- Invite
- L
- L
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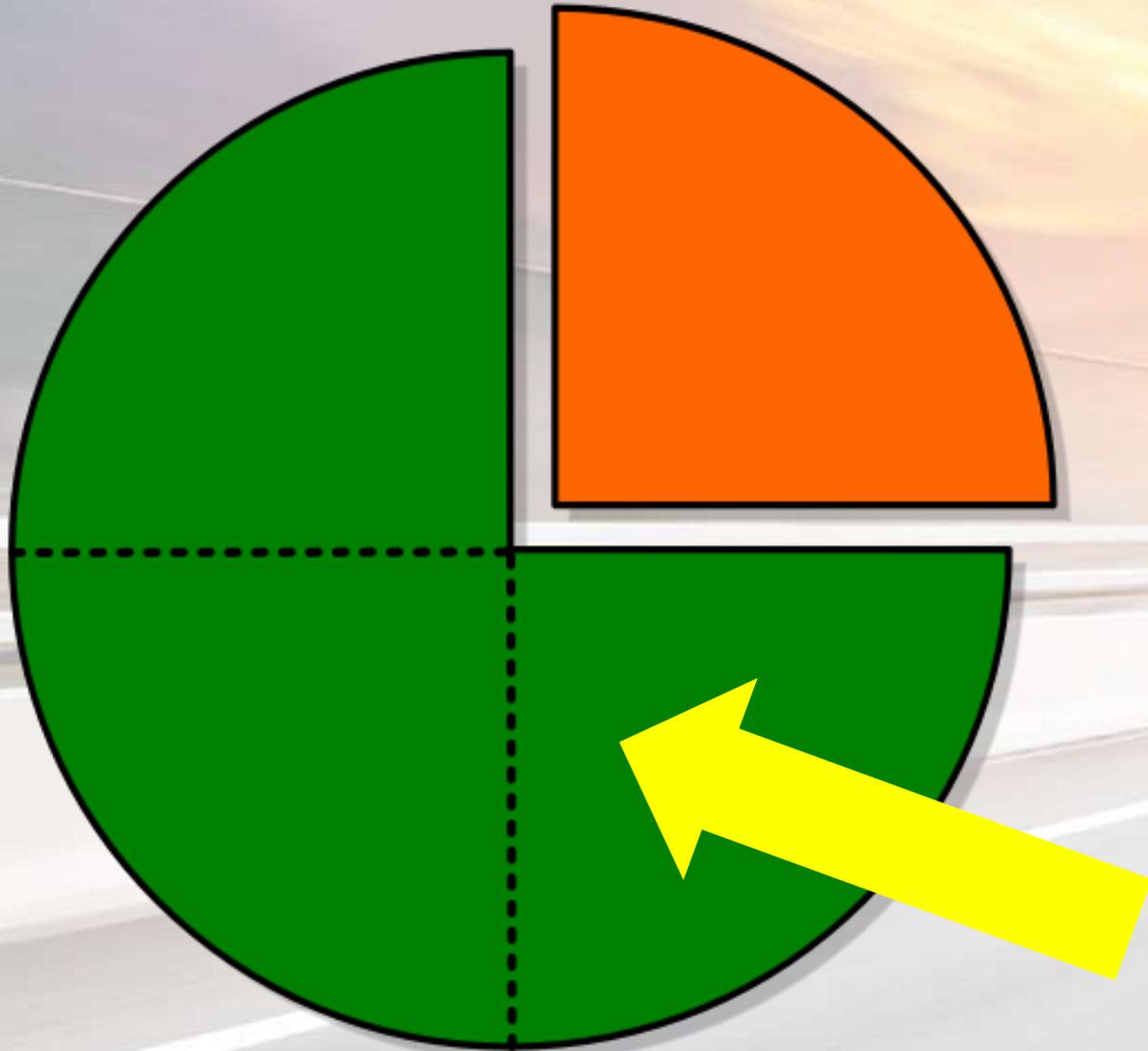
Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Invite

- people to know you by loving and serving them
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Romans 12:10-13



Invite people to know your church



About 75% of people in our communities rarely or never attend a Christian church.

We can compete with other churches to gain the largest slice of the 25%.

OR

We can go out and invite the other 75% to meet Jesus through the ministries of First Melissa.

Let's choose the latter.

Reach Intentionally



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Invite

- people to know Jesus as Savior
- Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
John 14:6



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray
- Invite
- Learn
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Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Learn

- God's Word as the source of truth and hope
- That God made you beautiful and special and He wants to know you personally
- That your past can be forgiven and overcome
- That you have been offered a new heart
- Your specific place in God's kingdom work



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray
- Invite
- Learn
- Love
- S



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Love

- In words and in deeds
- Unconditionally, as Jesus loves
- Because you have been loved



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray
- Invite
- Learn
- Love
- Share



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

Share

- **Life** – find a Community Group that fits you
- **Joy** – let the light of Jesus shine through you
- **Time** – find a place to serve in ministry
- **Money** – join us in Living Generosity
- **Gospel** – accept the challenge to make disciples of Jesus



Daily Heart Medicine for 2016

- Pray
- Invite
- Learn
- Love
- Share



King David prayed...

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. Psalm 51:10-13

Once God has my heart committed to His glory, He can use my heart to share His greatness with others.



What does a clean heart look like?

Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

- “Blessed” = Greek *makarios* = happy, fortunate, inwardly content
- “Pure” = Greek *katharos* = cleansing from dirt, filth, contamination; used of metals that had been refined until all impurities were removed; purified by fire; free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt; free from every mixture of what is false, sincere genuine; blameless, innocent; unstained with the guilt of anything

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.” (The Message)



What does an unclean heart look like?

- Jesus, quoting Isaiah, said, “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” Matthew 15:8-9
- Jesus said, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.” Matthew 15:19-20

Without Christ’s heart, the human heart is sinful



How can I have a pure heart?

- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” Psalm 139:23-24
- “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have told of all the ordinances of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways. I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.” Psalm 119:9-16



To have a pure heart, one's heart must have a single focus (one God)

“For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

James 1:7-8

To have a pure heart, my desire must be faithfulness to God's heart

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight.”

Psalms 19:14

With a pure heart, we can faithfully accomplish God's will for our lives

“So (David) shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart.”

Psalms 78:72



“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

What does it mean to “see God”?

“They shall see God” (Matthew 5:8) in the Greek is in future indicative tense and middle voice.

Literal translation: **“They shall be continuously seeing God for themselves.”**

Source: Pastor John MacArthur



What does it mean to “see God”?

- to see Him work in people’s lives
- to see Him grant salvation to unbelievers
- to see Him move in circumstances
- to see His hand in human history
- to see Him comfort a person’s heart
- to see Him heal someone emotionally
- to see Him heal someone physically
- to feel called to follow His path
- to feel His love and encouragement
- to grow in deeper relationship with Jesus



When we “see God,” we help others “see God”

Many people in our world would love to see God. In fact, many more people would become believers in Jesus if they could actually see God instead of having to see God’s people. If God’s people looked more like God, more unbelievers would be willing to listen to them.

But, unbelievers cannot see God because they are not pure in heart. They are not pure in heart because their hearts have not yet been touched by Jesus Christ. So, the only way an unbeliever is going to be able to see God, before they make a commitment to follow Christ, is to see the best possible human representation of God, which is a believer with a pure heart. So, our purity in heart not only will allow us to see God, but it will also allow the others around us to get a glimpse of Him



How can I live with a heart that loves Jesus?

“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

Psalm 24:3-5

Giving our hearts to Jesus...

Video testimony – Mary Hartnett



Your Heart

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

Thus says the Lord God of Israel, “I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7

Do you need a new heart today?

