

Contrasts of the Heart

Class Composite

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2005

Last Week's Lesson: Reconciliation

The Levite and his concubine (or wife?)

Reconciliation:

where there is a

contrast of hearts

that is brought into some kind of unity

Note: I haven't resolved all of my reconciliation issues with others

Reconciliation

I'm still working on reconciliation in my life

Peanuts

Contrasts of the Heart



What will we be discussing?

- We'll be looking at the contrast of hearts between individuals and/or groups of individuals
- This will be a different way to probe the theme of Good and Evil and study the Bible
- We will study the choices people make and some of the reasons that they make them

What can we learn from this?

Quote



**It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see
God, for only the pure in heart want to.**

C. S. Lewis

Two sides of the Heart



Theme Passage

**The heart of the wise inclines to the right,
but the heart of the fool to the left.**

Ecclesiastes 10:2

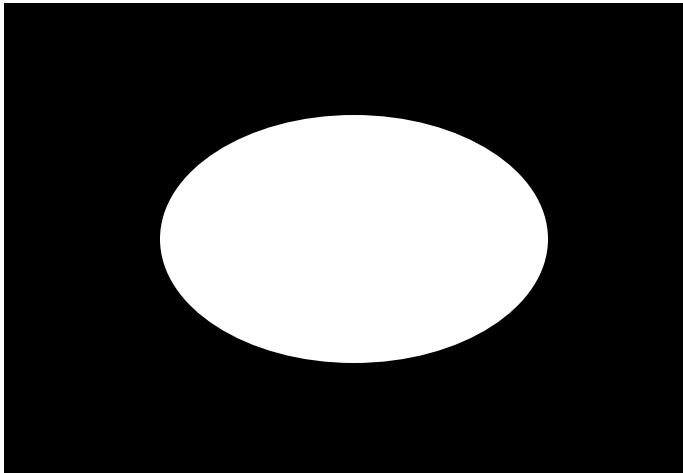
What is the motivation for either side?

Definition of Contrast (1)



Sharp definition of the differences between two images could be using color or brightness

Two things that are very different have a lot of **contrast**.
White and black have the greatest contrast.



Temperature contrast is used to detect intruders at night

Definition of Contrast (2)

Complementary colors also have high contrast.
Artists use high contrast to make something show up.
Color-blind people have great difficulty seeing color contrast.



In *Wheatfields with Ravens*, Vincent van Gogh used high contrast colors to make the yellow wheat fields stand out against the dark blue sky.



Artists may choose low contrast for a softer look, as Claude Monet did in this painting of a bridge.

The slides used in the lesson may not have enough contrast to read

Contrast is relative to the background



Soozie says, “Contrast is Good”

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-15

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

... don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

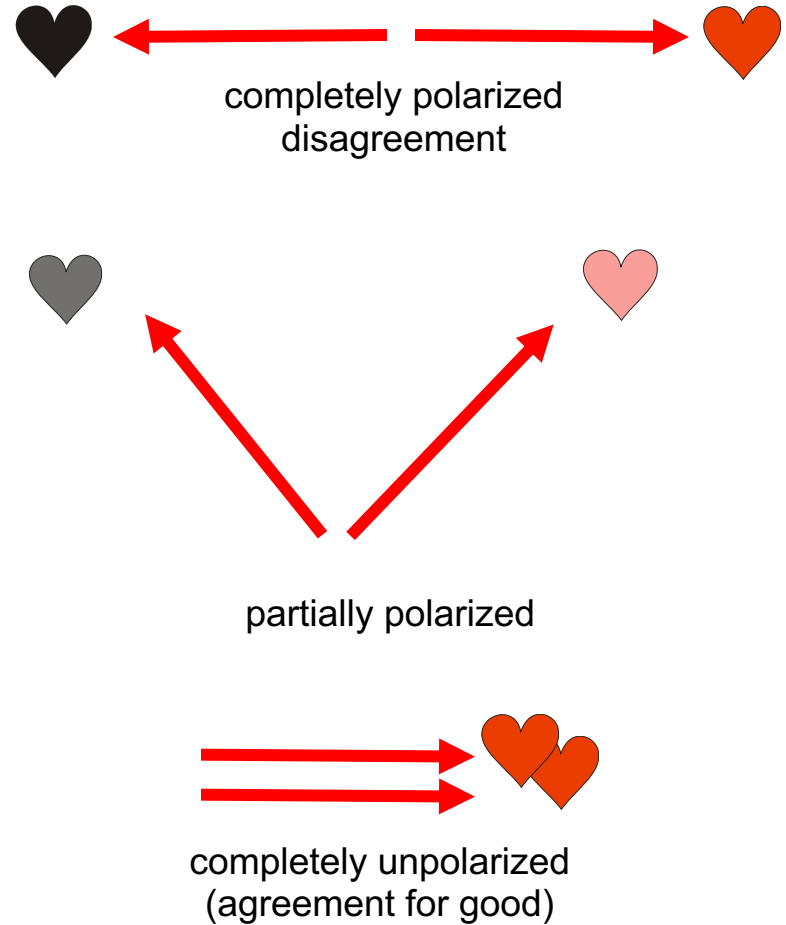
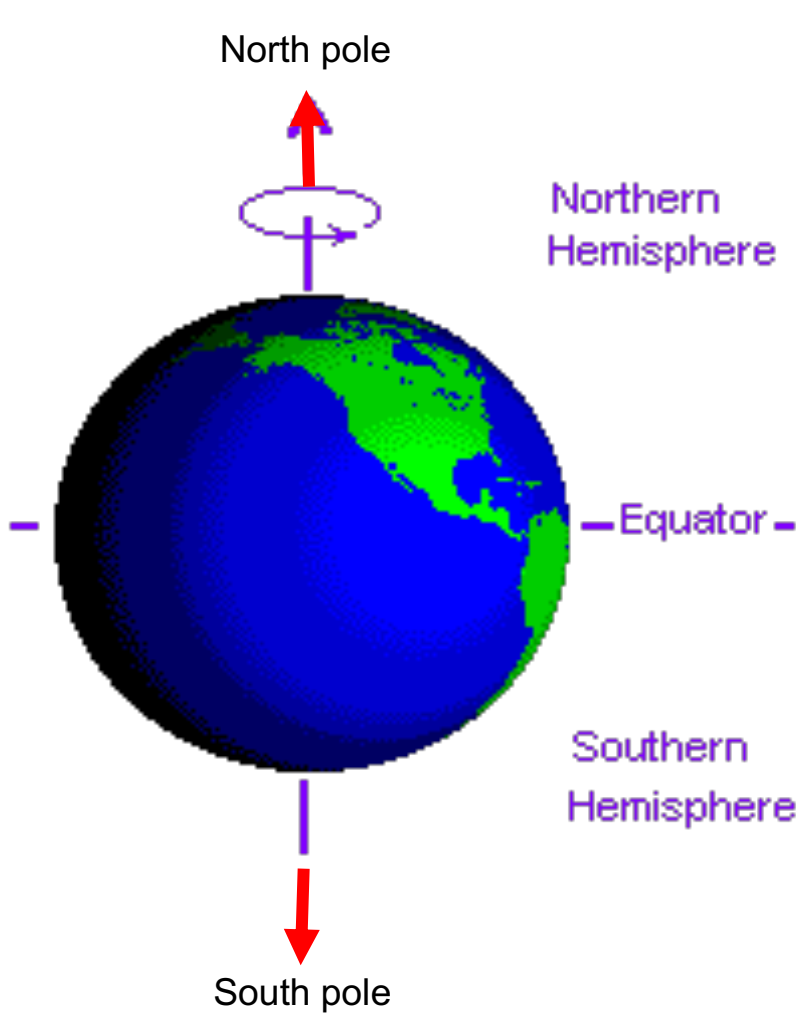
James 4:4

We definitely want to stand out in contrast to the world

Polarization Representation



Polarization is simply an action that puts us “poles” apart.



The contrast between hearts is not always 100%

Good vs Evil



The contrast between Good and Evil is 100%

Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:15

Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, **you who hate good and love evil...?"**

Micah 3:1-2a

Which side are we on?

What motivates us?



Why not be good?

Why do people want to be bad?

What did the bad ones gain?

Contrasts of the Heart



What is the best way to organize this?

- We'll be looking at the contrast of hearts between individuals and/or groups of individuals
- This will be a different way to probe the theme of Good and Evil and study the Bible
- We will study the choices people make and some of the reasons that they make them

Our purpose is to make us think!

Our own Contrast



What kind of contrast do you have in your heart?

How does our heart contrast with God?

How does our heart contrast with the world?

We want to blend in with God (no contrast with Him)

Contrasts of the Heart: Approach



What is the best way to organize this?

Groups usually associated with each other in life

Fathers/Sons

Competitors

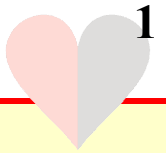
Brothers

Friends

Leaders

I would be glad to entertain other combinations from the class

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



The idea of Contrast

The heart

Examples:

- Adam and Eve
- Cain and Abel
- Job and his friends
- Abraham and Lot
- Sarah and Hagar
- Moses and Pharoah
- Jacob and Esau
- Rachel and Leah
- Hosea and Gomer
- Joseph and his brothers
- Joseph and Potiphar's wife
- Joshua and Caleb vs other spies
- Samuel's mother and the other wife
- Ruth and Orphah
- Deborah and Barak

Adam/Christ

Seeking God's Approval

Giving up

Greed/Ease

Slave/free

Hard heart

Family Inheritance

Loved and unloved

How we feel in our hearts

Vision: vertical vs horizontal

Faithfulness

Trust

Handling stress or success

Love and commitment

Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| – Stephen and Jesus vs Zechariah | Forgiveness |
| – Jesus and David vs bad shepherds | Caregiving |
| – Prodigal son and his brother | Recognition of sinful |
| – Pharisee and publican | Right/wrong vs good |
| – Samaritan vs religious leaders | Duty vs compassion |
| – Peter and Judas | Realization of Christ |
| – Peter bold, Peter afraid, Peter bold | Internal struggle |
| – Saul/Paul before and after the light | dedication |
| – John vs Sons of Thunder | Love vs zeal |
| – Jesus vs Herod/Pilate | Leadership / royalty |
| – Mary and Martha | Priorities |
| – Barnabas vs Annanias & Sapphira | Honesty and generosity |
| – Tradition vs commandment | Tradition vs commandment |
| – Rich man and Lazarus | Wealth and power |
| – Jesus and Pharisees | Judgment |
| – Paul and Jonah | Evangelism |
| – Christ and Satan | Good vs Evil |

We obviously won't have time to cover them all

What God says about our hearts



- **He will purify and renew ours**
- **He warns us not to harden it**
- **He will turn it from hard (insensitive) to soft (sensitive)**
- **He will write His word on it**
- **He asks us to open it**

We must make our Heart like God wants



Christianity is a thing of the heart, not a legalistic system which we must obey to the fullest extent.

We must respond to God's great love by changing our heart, and acting from the depths of it.

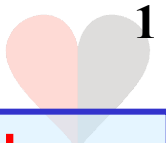
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

**A system of laws could not create the kind of people that God wanted.
it was too hard for mortal man to keep
it gave the impression that a better score made one closer to God**

We must strive to blend our hearts with God's, and make his will ours

We must not harden our hearts



“This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit ...”

Zechariah 7:8-12

So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion...”

Hebrews 3:7

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:12

As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” Who were they who heard and rebelled?

Hebrews 3:15-16

...he spoke through David, as was said before: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Hebrews 4:7

God will put a new heart in us



flesh vs stone

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them;
I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of
flesh.

Ezekiel 11:19

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of
flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

We must let God soften our hearts

We have something written on our hearts



good or bad

Judah's sin is engraved with an iron tool, inscribed with a flint point, on the tablets of their hearts and on the horns of their altars.

Jeremiah 17:1

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Jeremiah 31:33-34

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3

We must let God write His will on our hearts

God asks us to open our hearts



We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.

We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

As a fair exchange -- I speak as to my children -- open wide your hearts also.

2 Corinthians 6:11-13

We must let love pour from our hearts

Contrasts of the Heart



What will we be discussing?

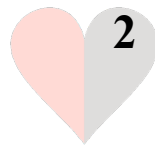
- We'll be looking at the contrast of hearts between individuals and/or groups of individuals
- This will be a different way to probe the theme of Good and Evil and study the Bible
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The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

Ecclesiastes 10:2

What can we learn from this?

What do we contrast with?



Soozie says, “Contrast is Good”

**Don't hide your light! Stand out against the nature of the world!
Show the Goodness of God!**

Matthew 5:14-15

Hate evil, love good...

Amos 5:15

**We definitely want to stand out in contrast to the world,
but we want to blend into the glory of God.**

What motivates us?



Fear: of punishment and going to hell

Guilt: negate our evil deeds

Reward: desire for riches of heaven

Love: desire to be with God

Why not be good?

Why do people want to be bad?

What do the bad ones gain?

Dale: we don't want to disappoint our Father



Sin becomes a crime, not against law, but against love; it means not breaking God's law so much as breaking God's heart.

William Barclay

Are we disappointing God?

What God says about our hearts



- **He will purify and renew ours**
- **He warns us not to harden it**
- **He will turn it from hard (insensitive) to soft (sensitive)**
- **He will write His word on it**
- **He asks us to open it**



A great human example: David

David's heart was a model



After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

Acts 13:22

This is indeed probably the highest recommendation that God has ever given one of his servants.

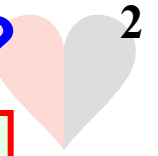
Here is a man who did not miss the point that God was trying to make.

Here was a man whose heart was aligned with God's and as a result and a response, obeyed him in almost everything.

This all is reflected in the actions, and especially the beautiful words of David that we find in the Old Testament.

Was David 'a man after God's own heart' because he was chasing it?

What is one example of this God-like heart?



David's total and complete trust in the Lord his God

We are introduced to David as simply a shepherd and musician. But when the time of trouble came, we find that David is a man who uses the power the God has made available.

“Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth... The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

1 Samuel 17:34-37

After seeing God's power work through him, David knew that there was nothing that the great Philistine giant Goliath could do against him if God was on his side.

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

1 Samuel 17:48

What is another example of this God-like heart? ²

David's expression of feeling in his Psalms

From the 119th Psalm:

“I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
(10-11)

“My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.” (20)

“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.” (97)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (105)

“Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold”
(127)

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.” (160)

The central idea of God occupied most of David's waking moments.

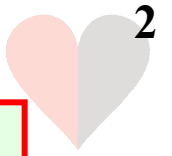
We must strive to love the law and will of God as David did.



Contrast: Adam and Christ

**Sin and Righteousness
Death and Life**

Contrast Adam and Christ (1)



First man – Last man: Contrast between flesh and spirit

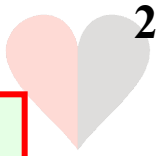
Man was made in God's image, but he marred his own face and made it unrecognizable.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27**

**Did you ever make a face at your Mother and have her say:
“Your face is going to freeze like that!”**

We must strive show to face of God to the world.

Contrast Adam and Christ (2)



God's perspective from Romans 5

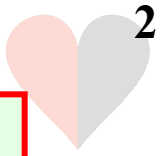
Therefore, just as sin entered the world through **one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to **all men**, because all sinned... Nevertheless, death reigned... (12-13)

Adam... was a **pattern** of the one to come. (14)

...if the many died by the trespass of the **one man**, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the **one man, Jesus Christ**, overflow to the **many**! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the **one man's sin**: The judgment followed **one sin** and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the **one man**, death reigned through that **one man**, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the **one man, Jesus Christ**. (15-17)

Consequently, just as the result of **one trespass** was condemnation for **all men**, so also the result of **one act of righteousness** was justification that brings life for **all men**. For just as through the **disobedience of the one man** the many were made sinners, so also through the **obedience of the one man** the many will be made righteous. (18-19)

Contrast Adam and Christ (3)



God's perspective from 1 Corinthians 15

For since **death** came through a man, the **resurrection** of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all **die**, so in Christ all will be made **alive**.

(20-28)

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

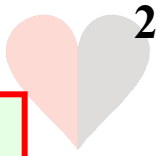
(42-43)

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The **first man Adam became a living being**" ; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The **first man was of the dust of the earth**, the **second man from heaven**. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, **so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven**.

(44b-49)

Through Adam we carry death, but through Christ we gain life.

Contrast Adam and Christ (4)



Compare the flesh to the spirit

Romans

One

(reign)

Adam

Trespass, sin

Death

Judgment

Condemnation

Disobedience

Christ

Gift, one act

Life

Justification

Obedience

Made righteous
overflow

All

Corinthians

All

(body)

Death

Death

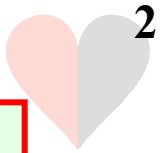
Physical

Resurrection

Life

Spiritual

Contrast Adam and Christ (5)



Like breaking through the ice



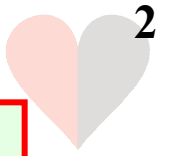
Through Adam (our own sin) we fall through,
but Christ pulls us out



Contrast: Cain and Abel

Seeking God's Approval

Contrast Cain and Abel (1)



What does God want?

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.** So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

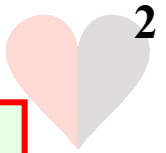
Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:2-8

What was the real difference between them?

Contrast Cain and Abel (2)



What was the difference between Cain and Abel?

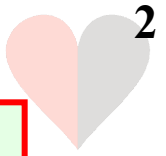
- God probably gave them more info / instructions
- Both gave what they worked with
- Did they understand the need for blood?
 - ❖ The relationship even with an innocent animal was meaningful
- Abel ended up shedding blood (irony)
- Perhaps Cain didn't pursue God's desire enough

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Hebrews 11:4

Abel had faith (believing in what God stands for)

Contrast Abel and Jesus



Another contrast to think about

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

Hebrews 12:22-5

Abel and Christ were innocent, but only Christ's blood means anything



Contrast: Abraham and Lot

Content and Greed

Contrast Abraham and Lot (1)

Abraham's call from God to become a great nation

The LORD had said to Abram, "**Leave** your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. **I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**"

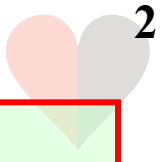
So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ...they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your **offspring** I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 12:1-9

God promised all of this land to Abraham: Keep this in mind

Contrast Abraham and Lot (2)



Abraham was willing to share, and gave Lot the choice

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot.

So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, **like the garden of the LORD**, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company...

Genesis 13:5-11

Lot selfishly chose the best land, ignoring the risk

Contrast Abraham and Lot (3)

Abraham had to save Lot when war occurred

Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD. **Genesis 13:13**

Four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. They also carried off Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. **Genesis 14:11-2**

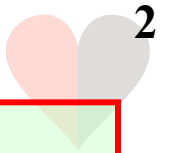
When Abraham heard that Lot had been taken captive, he called out his own army and went in pursuit to the extreme end of the promised land. He routed them, pursuing to the north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, and all of the other people. **Genesis 14:14-16**

Abraham gave God the credit for the victory and gave Melchizedek, priest of God, a tenth of everything. **Genesis 14:18-20**

Abraham would not personally accept any of the spoils. **Genesis 14:22-24**

No explicit sermon to Lot, who went back to Sodom.

Contrast Abraham and Lot (4)



God still promised Abraham everything

The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

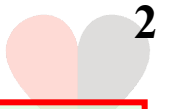
So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Genesis 13:14-18

Abraham believed in the promise even though he had no son

Abraham refused to gain by Lot's mistake

Contrast Abraham and Lot (5)



God warns Abraham about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

God's angel will check out the cities personally.

Genesis 18:20-21

Abraham bargains with God to save Sodom and Gomorrah if there are only ten righteous people there.

shows confidence that God will do right

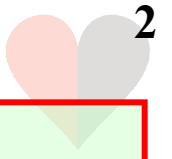
calls himself only dust and ashes (even with God's promise)

considers himself in danger of God's anger

quit when he thinks surely there are enough good people

Now Abraham is out of the picture until the end

Contrast Abraham and Lot (6)



Lot gets into a situation like the Levite we studied earlier

Two angels come into the city and Lot invites them to his home

They claim that they will stay in the square, but Lot insists

The men of the town demand the visitors for evil purposes

Lot goes out and offers his own two daughters

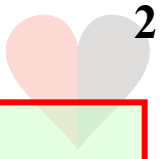
(the power of the concept of Hospitality)

The townspeople refuse, threatening Lot and his house

The angels strike the men blind so they cannot find the door

Lot has not been totally corrupted by his contact with evil

Contrast Abraham and Lot (7)



Lot can't quite believe what is happening to him

The angels warn Lot that the cities will be destroyed

They tell him to gather together anyone else he cares about

Lot warns his future sons-in-law, but they think he's joking

At dawn, the angels tell Lot to take his wife and daughters and go

Lot hesitates, and the angels pull them away from Sodom

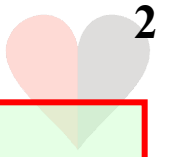
Lot asks to run to a small city instead of the mountains

God destroyed the entire area with burning sulfur

Lot's wife looks back and turns into a pillar of salt

Lot is now ready to accept a very small, nondescript place to live

Contrast Abraham and Lot (8)



The scene shifts back to Abraham

Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, **he remembered Abraham**, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Genesis 19:27-29

Think of the disappointment that Abraham must have felt

No indication of further contact between Lot and Abraham

Lot was saved because of Abraham

Quote



When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words without heart.

John Bunyan

How God wants our hearts to be



- **Purified**
- **Renewed**
- **Responsive**
- **Engraved with His Word**
- **Open**

In other words, like His

King David was a great human example:

**Great Faith
Love for God's Will**

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ

Cain and Abel

Abraham and Lot

Sarah and Hagar

Jacob and Esau

Rachel and Leah

Joseph and his brothers

Joseph and Potiphar's wife

Moses and Pharaoh

Joshua and Caleb vs other spies

Job and his friends

Samuel's mother and the other wife

Ruth and Orpah

Deborah and Barak

Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death

Seeking God's Approval

Content / Greed

Slave / free

The importance of family

Loved and unloved

Vision: vertical vs horizontal

Faithfulness

Meekness / Will

Faith in God's Power

Perserverance

Handling stress or success

Love and commitment

Faith



Contrast: Sarah and Hagar

Free or Slave

Contrast Sarah and Hagar (1)



The struggle to understand God's promise

God promises Abraham many descendants

Sarah is barren into her old age (though she is still beautiful)

Sarah convinces Abraham to have a child by her servant Hagar

Hagar becomes pregnant and despises Sarah

Sarah blames Abraham, and chases Hagar off

God brings Hagar back, and Ishmael is born

Sarah finally becomes pregnant and bears Isaac

Ishmael mocks Isaac when he is weaned

Sarah has Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away

God promises that Ishmael will be a great nation, too

Genesis 15-16, 21

A great rivalry developed between these two women.
The descendents of these two continue to wage war.

Contrast Sarah and Hagar (2)



It's all about laughter

Hagar essentially laughs at the barren Sarah	Gen 16:4
Sarah laughs when she hears that she will bear a son	Gen 18:12
Abraham names the son Isaac, which means laughter	Gen 21:3 (&5)
Ishmael laughs at (mocks) when Isaac is weaned	Gen 21:9

Who had the last laugh?

Contrast Sarah and Hagar (3)



Paul's interpretation in Galatians 4

Tell me, **you who want to be under the law**, are you not aware of what the law says? 21

For it is written that Abraham had **two sons**, one by the **slave** woman and the other by the **free** woman. His **son** by the **slave** woman was born in the ordinary way; but his **son** by the **free** woman was born as the result of a **promise**. 22-23

These things may be taken **figuratively**, for the women represent **two covenants**.

One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is **above** is free, and she is our mother. 24-26

The reason for this discussion centers on the need for circumcision

Contrast Sarah and Hagar (4)



Paul's interpretation in Galatians 4

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

28

At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

29

But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."

30

Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

31

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

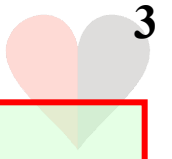
Neither of these women have the clear moral advantage.
But only one had the relationship required for the promise.



Contrast: Jacob and Esau

The importance of family

Contrast Jacob and Esau (1)



These were covered in David's class on Reconciliation

Isaac prays to God for children (Rebekah has been barren so far)
Rebekah becomes pregnant with twins, which struggle within her
Esau is born first (very hairy), then Jacob is born grabbing Esau's heel
Esau becomes a hunter, Jacob a herdsman
Isaac and Rebekah made favorites of the boys

Genesis 25

As a twin, born only minutes later, Jacob must have felt he deserved an equal part of the inheritance

This set up a great rivalry between them

Contrast Jacob and Esau (2)



The birthright (special part of the inheritance due the firstborn)

Jacob was cooking stew

Esau came in from hunting very hungry

He demanded stew immediately

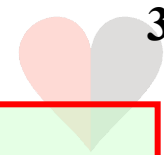
Jacob offered to trade some for the birthright

Esau “despised” his birthright, trading the present for the future

Genesis 27

The friction between them could only increase

Contrast Jacob and Esau (3)



The blessing (special prayer for God's power)

Isaac was growing old, and knew his time was coming

He called Esau and asked him for his favorite meal of wild game

Rebekah overhears, and plots to have Jacob beat Esau to the punch

- She cooks the meal (able to make it taste like wild game to Isaac)
- She puts Esau's best clothes on Jacob
- She covers Jacob's skin with animal skins (Isaac is nearly blind)
- The only hitch is Jacob's voice

Isaac is suspicious, but he blesses Jacob

Esau comes in almost immediately, and Isaac is shaken to the core

Esau cries out for a blessing, and Isaac gives a secondary blessing

Genesis 27

The friction is so bad now that Esau declares he will kill Jacob

Contrast Jacob and Esau (4)



The aftermath

Jacob runs for his life, under the guise of finding a proper wife

Jacob meets God, and agrees to follow Him if He blesses him

Jacob meets success in the old country, finding wives and herds

Relations with his in-laws become strained, and he returns home

He knows that he has not treated Esau right, and is concerned

Jacob wrestles with God's representative and is renamed Israel

Jacob sends a gift on ahead of him to appease his brother

He places his family in order how much he cares for them

Esau has lost his grudge and welcomes his brother

Each settles in their own area, and lives their own lives

Genesis 27-32

Reconciliation is finally achieved

Contrast Jacob and Esau (5)



The New Testament interpretation

See that no one is sexually immoral, or is **godless** like **Esau**, who for a single meal sold his **inheritance** rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this **blessing**, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

Hebrews 12:16-17

Jacob understood the importance of sacred things



Contrast: Rachel and Leah

The loved and the unloved

Contrast Rachel and Leah (1)



The problem of favoritism continues

Jacob loved Rachel and worked seven years to marry her

He tells his future father-in-law that he wants to “lie with” his daughter

He was tricked into marrying Leah first, and probably resented that

What “sweet nothings” he had probably told

He had to wait a week to marry Rachel, then work another seven years

Leah worked to make Jacob love her, and hoped sons would help

Reuben: see, a son (“Surely my husband will love me now”)

Simeon: one who hears (“Because God has heard I am not loved”)

Levi: attached (“Now at last my husband will become attached to me”)

Judah: praise (she apparently quit trying to make Jacob love her this way)

Rachel claims that she will die if Jacob doesn’t give her children

Imagine Jacob’s frustration – he’s doing all he can

Stories of the loved and unloved echo throughout the Bible

Contrast Rachel and Leah (2)



The contest rages: time for the subs

Rachel sent her maidservant Bilhah in to Jacob

Leah does the same with her maidservant Zilpah

Score:

Leah's team: 6 + 2 (with one girl)

Rachel's team: 2

Rachel dies in childbirth after having Joseph and Benjamin

How ironic that she died because Jacob did give her children

It is also ironic that now Jacob only has Leah (the unloved) as a wife

Hopefully he learned to love her

But he showed his everlasting love for Rachel in his favoritism of her sons

Hosea and Gomer represent another loved/unloved scenario

How different it feels to know that we are loved!!!!

Think of how God feels about not being loved

God loves us



This is what the Bible is all about!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

God wants us to know that He loves us



Contrast: Joseph and his brothers

Vision: vertical vs horizontal

Contrast Joseph and his brothers (1)



The problem of favoritism keeps on

Joseph was treated with special favor by his father

The other brothers were jealous

Joseph has dreams that indicate that the other brothers will serve him

Joseph looked vertically, to the future and to God

The brothers looked horizontally, only to their immediate interests

They were only interested in saving themselves

The brothers did not look to the consequences of their actions

This act would affect them negatively all of their lives

Joseph made the best of his situations, always trusting in God

This kept him in position to be God's servant and save the world

Joseph kept looking up to God

Quote



It is chance that makes brothers, but hearts that make friends.

Von Geibel

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



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Cain and Abel

Abraham and Lot

Sarah and Hagar

Jacob and Esau

Rachel and Leah

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Joseph and Potiphar's wife

Moses and Pharaoh

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Contrast Joseph and Potiphar's wife (1)



Faithfulness

Joseph held to his faith in God's way even though his dreams had apparently been misunderstood

Joseph did the best that he could at any job he was given

Joseph had nothing, but was given responsibility over everything

Joseph did not submit to the temptation temporary gratification

He did not want to sin against God, or break the trust of Potiphar

Potiphar's wife was probably used to getting her own way

She obviously did not care about Potiphar

She did not really care about Joseph, either, sending him to prison

She knew nothing about faithfulness to people or principles

Joseph still kept his faith in God

Contrast between Judah and Reuben (1)



both worked to keep Joseph alive

Reuben:

He convinced the others not to kill him, but put him in a well

He planned to rescue him and send him back to Jacob

He left Joseph with the group, who still wanted to kill him

Judah:

He proposed that Joseph be sold instead of killed

He was probably trying to save Joseph from inevitable violence

All of the brothers:

Created the illusion that Joseph had been killed by a vicious animal

Reuben was devastated that Joseph was gone

Contrast between Judah and Rueben (2)



The power of meaningful self-sacrifice

Joseph demanded that the brothers bring the youngest, Benjamin

He knew that Benjamin had surely replaced him as the favorite son

The brothers had been very reluctant to bring him to Egypt

Reuben offered his own two sons to be killed if Benjamin was lost

This was an empty threat without any personal risk to Reuben

Judah offered to bear the blame before his father all his life

He knew that the threat of being outcast from the family was very real

He knew that they would all starve if they didn't go

Joseph tested his brothers by an apparent threat to Benjamin

Joseph trumped up a charge that would separate Benjamin from them

Would the brothers protect him or give him up?

Joseph would see that Benjamin was protected either way

Judah offered the only real self-sacrifice

Contrast between Judah and Rueben (3)



the real test

The brothers believe that Joseph will make Benjamin a slave

Judah and the brothers bow down to humble themselves

Judah admits their “crime”, and offers all of them as slaves

Joseph singles out Benjamin; the others can go

Judah steps up and tells his story

His father has two favorite sons

One is gone, and the father thinks was killed by animals

The father has been in mourning ever since

If the other son does not return it will kill their father

Judah cannot bear to think of his father’s additional sorrow

Judah offers his own life in place of his brother Benjamin

This is what Joseph was waiting to see

Contrast between Judah and Christ (1)



Both gave themselves up for someone else

... the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age...

Galatians 1:4

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

1 Timothy 2:6

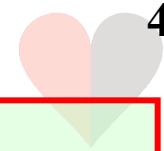
There is no greater gift that one can give (Romans 5:6-8)



Contrast: Moses and Pharoah

Meekness and Will

Contrast Moses and Pharaoh (1)



Moses was afraid to stand up to Pharaoh

Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.

Numbers 12:3

Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

Exodus 5:2

That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and foremen in charge of the people: “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’”

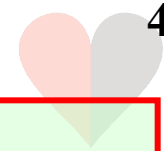
Exodus 5:6-8

After nine plagues: Pharaoh said to Moses, “Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die.”

Exodus 10:28

Moses bowed to God; Pharaoh thought that he was God

Contrast Moses and Pharoah (2)



Consequences

Moses became the leader of a great nation, brought them to the border of the promised land. **Deuteronomy 31**

He had a little problem with pride, which led to his not being able to enter the promised land at this time. **Numbers 20:12**

Moses is honored as the great law-giver, because God sent the law through him. **Exodus 19-34**

Pharoah went back on his word and pursued the Israelites to bring them back. He and his army were destroyed in the Red Sea when God collapsed the walls of water that allowed the Israelites to go through.

Exodus 14

Moses became known as a great servant of God.
Pharoah's fame was that he had ruined Egypt.



Contrast: Joshua and Caleb and the other spies

Faith in the power of God

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (1)

4

They interpret the facts very differently

The LORD said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." **Numbers 13:1-3**

When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "... See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land."

Numbers 13:17-20

So they went up and explored the land... When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs... At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. **Numbers 13:21-25**

They were all brave enough to spy out the land

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (2)

4

Two very different reports

They came back... and... reported to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.” **Numbers 13:26-29**

Then Caleb... said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” **Numbers 13:30**

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” **Numbers 13:31**

And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” **Numbers 13:32-33**

Joshua and Caleb saw opportunity; the others saw difficulty

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (3)

4

The bad report swayed the people, in spite of their great deliverance

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other, "**We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.**"

Numbers 14:1-4

The entire community wanted to stone Moses...

Numbers 14:10

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (4)

4

The true leaders plead with the people

Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there.

Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. **If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.** Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Numbers 14:5-9

Then the glory of the LORD appeared...

Numbers 14:10

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (5)

4

God in His anger wants to destroy His people

Num 14:11-12 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? **I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.**"

Even though God promised to make Moses the father of a new nation, Moses intercedes for the people and begs God, **in His great love**, to forgive them.

He uses that argument that the Egyptians will now mock God when they see that He could not bring His people into the promised land.

Num 14:13-19

Moses is shown to be a type of Christ, interceding for his people

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (6)

4

The people refuse to believe in spite of God's great miracles

The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, **not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times... will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.**

Numbers 14:20-25

God will deal with those who treat Him with contempt

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (7)

4

The people were constantly complaining

"How long will this wicked community grumble against me? ... As surely as I live, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall -- every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb... and Joshua... As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected... Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. For forty years--one year for each of the forty days you explored the land -- you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.' I, the LORD, will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me."

Numbers 14:20-35

The children suffer from their parents' unfaithfulness

Contrast Joshua/Caleb and other spies (8)

4

Contrast with God caused the people to fail

So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a **bad report** about it -- these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and **died of a plague** before the LORD.

Of the men who went to **explore** the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

Numbers 14:36

Joshua and Caleb got to enter the promised land and enjoy it
The other ten spies were killed by a plague (probably soon after)

With God nothing is impossible (Mark 10:27)

Contrast Moses and Christ (1)



Interceding for their people

How many times did Moses intercede for the Israelites?

Exodus 32:11ff (worship of the golden calf)

Numbers 14:19 (already mentioned)

Numbers 16:22 (rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram)

Numbers 16:46 (response of multitude to death of Korah and others)

Numbers 21:4-9 (grumbling; Moses made the bronze snake)

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:23-25

Christ... is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us

Romans 8:34

Christ intercedes continuously for us

Contrast: Man vs Woman (1)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What she heard: **“It’s your lot in life to stop whatever it is you’re doing in order to serve my every need!”**

Non-sequitur cartoon

What he said: **“Honey... Do you know if we have any triple-A batteries?”**



The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties, but through every human heart and through all human hearts.

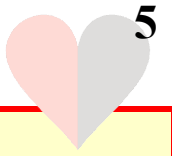
Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharoah	Meekness / Will
Joshua and Caleb vs other spies	Faith in God's Power
Job and his friends	Perserverance
Samuel's mother and the other wife	Handling stress or success
Ruth and Orphah	Love and commitment
Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
- Gideon and Saul's sons Humility and power
- David and Saul Respect for the Lord's will
- David and Absalom Family and power
- Other fathers and their children
 - Eli and his sons
 - Samuel and his sons
 - Solomon and Rehoboam
 - Kings and their sons (Good/Bad)
- David and Uriah Dedication and loyalty
- Abigail and Nabal Giving/selfish/gratitude
- Joab and Abner Ambition / loyalty
- Barzallai and Caleb Age and activity
- Contrasts in Proverbs
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position
- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish

Another word on Joseph



He was totally committed to God's plan in God's time

Look at who Joseph saved:

himself

his entire family (~ 70)

the nation of Egypt (hundreds of thousands)

other nations around (hundreds of thousands)

Just because he remained true to God

Another word on Moses



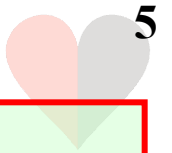
Moses parting water in bathtub cartoon



Contrast: Job and his friends

Perserverance

Contrast Job and his friends (1)



Job probably lived about the time of Abraham

Job was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

He had seven sons and three daughters, he owned great flocks, and he had many servants.

He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

He sacrificed daily to cover his children's sins.

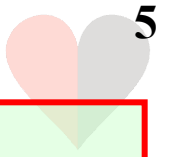
The LORD bragged on Job to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on **earth** like him."

Satan then claimed that Job only feared God because God protected him. If Job were to suffer hardship, he would surely curse God.

God gave Satan permission to destroy everything he had, but not to hurt Job directly.

The point of this contest was to have Job curse God

Contrast Job and his friends (2)



Job was dealt a tremendous blow

One day Job received several messages. He had lost all of his flocks and his children, and only the messenger servants were left.

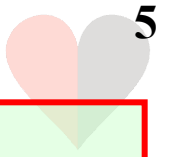
At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship.

He said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job would not curse God

Contrast Job and his friends (3)



Job was given even more suffering

God once again bragged on Job, noting that he still maintained his integrity.

Satan then replied that a man would give all he has for his own life. If Job has to suffer physical pain, he would surely curse God.

God then allows Satan to afflict Job with painful sores.

Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

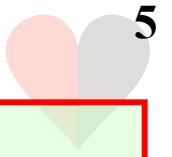
His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Satan left Job's wife to work on Job from close at hand

Contrast Job and his friends (4)



Job three friends arrive to try to console him

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

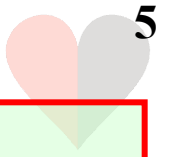
When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

Job cursed the day of his birth, but not God

Contrast Job and his friends (5)



Job friends are not able to console him

After many words from the three friends, it is evident that Job is not comforted, and that they expected him to curse God and die.

Their main point seems to be that Job's integrity was a sham and that he should just let go of it, to give up.

A fourth friend, Elihu, made a speech also, but the Lord finally interrupts and condemns all of their counsel.

God shows Job that though he doesn't know everything, he has pleased Him through his perseverance.

Job repents of his ignorance.

God puts Job in the place of a priest for the friends, who need prayer to prevent their own disasters.

God then blesses Job so that he was richer than before

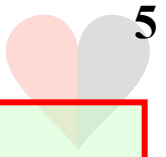
Job never gave up on God, though all others around him urged him to



Contrast: Deborah and Barak

Faith in the power of God

Contrast Deborah and Barak (1)



Israel in trouble again

After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera...

Because he had nine hundred iron chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

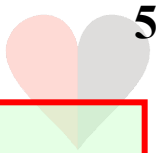
Judges 4:1-3

Deborah, a prophetess... was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah... and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided.

Judges 4:4-5

A woman was God's chosen leader at this time

Contrast Deborah and Barak (2)



Deborah tries to delegate the military leadership to Barak

She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

Judges 4:6-7

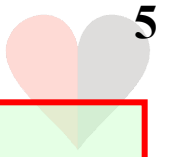
Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

"Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a **woman**." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh, where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.

Judges 4:8-10

Barak did not care if he got the credit

Contrast Deborah and Barak (3)



God granted them a great victory

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. **Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?"** So Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by ten thousand men.

At Barak's advance, **the LORD** routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot.

But **Barak pursued** the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left.

Judges 4:14-16

Sisera tried to hide in the tent of someone he thought was a friend.

The man's wife fed him and let him go to sleep; then she killed him.

Deborah sang a great victory song.

Then the land had peace for 40 years

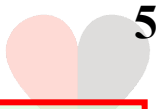
A woman (not Deborah) got all the credit



Contrast: Gideon and Saul

Humility and the love of power

Contrast Gideon and Saul (1)



Each man is presented with a once-in-a-lifetime chance for power

An angel came to Gideon when Midian was oppressing Israel.

Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to hide what he was doing from the Midianites.

The angel said, "The LORD is with you, **mighty warrior.**"

Gideon asked, "How can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**"

The angel states that God will be with him.

Gideon asks for proof.

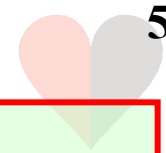
Proof #1: Gideon prepares a meal and God caused fire to consume it.

Gideon builds an altar there to commemorate this event.

Gideon was told to go in the strength that he had

Gideon is extremely timid, and thinks little of his ability

Contrast Gideon and Saul (2)



Gideon acts, but only under cover of darkness

**God tells him to tear down the altar to Baal and the Asherah pole.
Gideon does this at night to keep anyone from seeing him.
He sacrifices a bull using the material from these pagan structures.
When the town finds out about who did it, they come to kill Gideon.
Gideon's father claims that if Baal is a real god, then he will handle it.
The people leave Gideon alone.**

**The spirit of the Lord falls on Gideon, and he gathers up an army.
But Gideon asks for more proof.
Proof #2: Dew on the fleece, but the ground is dry.
Proof #3: The ground is wet with dew, but the fleece is dry.**

Gideon is almost convinced

Contrast Gideon and Saul (3)



God wants to make sure that no one thinks the victory will be man's

God tells Gideon that his army of 32,000 is too large.

God lets those who are afraid go home, leaving only 10,000.

God tells Gideon that there are still too many.

God tells Gideon to take only those who lap up water like a dog.

This leaves only 300 warriors.

Gideon might have almost been convinced before the reductions.

Now God has him get very close to the enemy camp.

Gideon arrives just as a man is relating a dream

In the dream a round loaf of barley bread rolls through the camp and tears up his tent.

The Midianite's friend interprets this as a prediction of Gideon's victory.

Gideon is now convinced and highly motivated

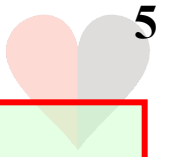
Contrast Gideon and Saul (4)

God uses the fear of the Midianites for their own self-destruction

When Gideon heard the dream's interpretation, he worshiped God.
He returned to the camp of Israel got them ready for battle.
He divided the three hundred men into three companies.
He gave them trumpets and jars with torches inside.
Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp, blew their trumpets, and broke the jars that were in their hands.
The other two companies did the same.
They shouted the battle cry: **"A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"**
The Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.
The men in the camp turned on each other with their swords.
300 men of Israel conquered 135,000 Midianites, killing 120,000

God gave a victory against tremendous odds

Contrast Gideon and Saul (5)



How does Gideon deal with his success?

The Israelites said to Gideon, "Rule over us--you, your son and your grandson--because you have saved us out of the hand of Midian."

But Gideon told them, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. **The LORD will rule over you.**"

Judges 8:22-27

He does take part of the spoils to create an ephod, which became the object of idol worship in the years to come.

Gideon stays humble and does not let his new power go to his head

Contrast: Man vs Woman (2)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What he heard: “You’re way too stupid to be trusted driving alone in bad weather!”

Non-sequitur cartoon

What she said: “Drive carefully, dear!”

Quote



Nobody has ever measured, even the poets, how much a heart can hold.

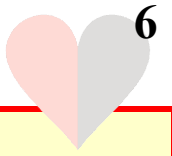
Zelda Fitzgerald

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharaoh	Meekness / Will
Joshua and Caleb vs other spies	Faith in God's Power
Job and his friends	Perserverance
Samuel's mother and the other wife	Handling stress or success
Ruth and Orpah	Love and commitment
Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
- Gideon and Saul's sons Humility and power
- David and Saul Respect for the Lord's will
- David and Absalom Family and power
- Other fathers and their children
 - Eli and his sons
 - Samuel and his sons
 - Solomon and Rehoboam
 - Kings and their sons (Good/Bad)
- David and Uriah Dedication and loyalty
- Abigail and Nabal Giving/selfish/gratitude
- Joab and Abner Ambition / loyalty
- Barzallai and Caleb Age and activity
- Contrasts in Proverbs
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position
- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish

Contrast: Lucy and Linus



Peanuts cartoon



Contrast: Gideon and Saul

Humility and the love of power

Contrast Gideon and Saul (Review)

6

Each man is presented with a once-in-a-lifetime chance for power

God asked Gideon to lead Israel.

Gideon asked, "How can I save Israel? **My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.**"

The angel states that God will be with him.

Gideon asks for and receives four proofs (besides the victory).

God reduces Gideon's army from 35,000 to 300.

Gideon's tactics caused the Midianites to fight themselves

The battle cry was: "**A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!**"

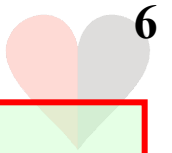
300 men of Israel conquered 135,000 Midianites, killing 120,000

The Israelites ask Gideon for he and his sons to rule over them

But Gideon told them, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. **The LORD will rule over you.**"

Gideon stays humble and does not let his new power go to his head

Contrast Gideon and Saul (6)



Saul's story begins in a very similar way

Samuel tells Saul that he will become a ruler in Israel.

Saul answered, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the **smallest tribe** of Israel, and **is not my clan the least** of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin?"

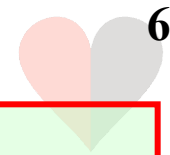
The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power, and he won a great victory over the Ammonites for the Lord and for Israel.

Like Gideon, the people of Israel all hailed him as a great hero, and wanted him as their king.

Samuel crowned him king, and he did very well for a while.

Both Gideon and Saul initially saw themselves as the least of the least

Contrast Gideon and Saul (7)



Saul goes astray and begins to assume more power

On one occasion, with his army dwindling as he waited for Samuel, he decided to offer up the burnt offering himself.

Samuel told him that he had done a great wrong and that God had sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people because of it.

Power corrupted Saul, and he tried to control Israel himself instead of relying on the power of God.

Another time Saul grasped for the power of worldly things rather than submit to the will of God.

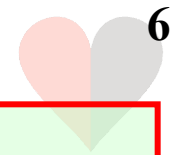
He was ordered to completely destroy the Amalekites, but he returned with the best plunder from the battle.

But Samuel replied: **"To obey is better than sacrifice."**

Saul feared the loss of earthly power, and was thus rejected by God.

Saul let the idea of being king take control of him

Contrast Gideon and Saul (8)



Both men were given the same opportunity

In both of these stories, the man to whom God was to impart a special mission thought himself the least member of the least family of the least tribe of Israel.

Both were visited by a measure of the Spirit of God and were able to win a great victory and freedom for their people by it.

Both were given a chance to become the king of all of Israel.

Gideon recognized God's role as king.

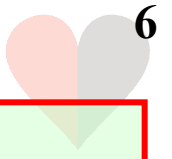
Saul accepted only too readily the power of that position.

He seems to become every more power hungry as the years go on, not just for himself but for his family as well.

We see that it ceased to matter much what it was that the Lord really wanted from him.

Each used that opportunity in very different ways

Paul's View of His Heritage (1)



Paul had different view of his tribe

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Philipians 3:4-8

Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**--of whom **I am the worst**. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in **me, the worst of sinners**, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience ...

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Paul had the credentials, but knew they were worthless

A Prayer



O Lord,

You are the greatest...

and I am the worst;

You are everything...

and I am nothing;

**You are the creator
of the universe...**

and I am absolutely weak!



Contrast: Gideon's son and Saul's son

Humility and the love of power

Contrast Gideon's son and Saul's son (1)

6

Do the sons follow their fathers?

Abimelech, Gideon's son, was consumed with a love for power.

He knew of the people's request to his father that he and his descendants be king over them.

He could have thought that his father had cheated him out of power.

He wanted so badly to be king that he killed 70 of his brothers in an attempt to wipe out all possible family competition.

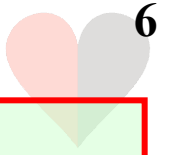
He then set himself up as the king of Shechem.

He was ultimately defeated.

Judges 9

Gideon's son looked at power in the opposite way from his father

Contrast Gideon's son and Saul's son (2)



Power can corrupt people, but not always

Jonathan, the son of Saul, a man who does not particularly wish to be king, especially if there is another man more capable than he.

David proved his worth by killing the giant Goliath.

“After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.” **1 Samuel 18:1-4**

Saul points out in **1 Sam 20:30-31** that David is Jonathan's competition to the power and glory and throne of Israel.

Jonathan bows before a man he feels is his superior.

Saul's son looked at power in the opposite way from his father, too

The true and perfect use of power (1)

6

Christ was the power of creation limited to a human body

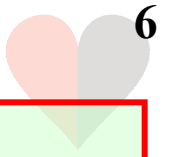
“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be **grasped**, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Therefore God **exalted him to the highest place** and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Phillipians 2:5-11

God and His Son had the same view of power: to use it for Good

The true and perfect use of power (2)



Christ let go of the power because He loved us

The treatment of the woman taken in adultery shows the true gentleness of his soul, even though he has all power (John 8:1-11).

Christ had his ambition and his power under complete control.

With this characteristic gentleness he will deal with us when the time comes.

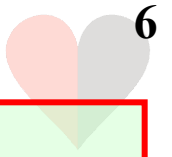
God's true power is Love



Contrast: David and Saul

Respect for God's Will

Contrast David and Saul (1)



How do we treat our enemies?

Saul is anointed king by Samuel.

Saul lets power corrupt him, and God chooses another.

David is anointed king by Samuel, too.

David takes on the giant Goliath and kills him.

Saul becomes very jealous of David's popularity.

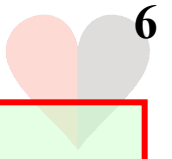
(Saul forgets that he had the same chance to be a hero)

Saul's hatred develops, and he tries to kill David.

David finally has to leave the country.

If Saul had trusted in God's power he would not have had this problem

Contrast David and Saul (2)



Saul saw David as an enemy

Saul decides that it is not enough that David has left.

He decides that he must find and destroy him.

Saul takes 3000 chosen men from all Israel to look for David in the Desert of En Gedi.

He comes to a cave and goes in to relieve himself.

David and his men are hiding in the cave.

David's men urge him to kill Saul.

David creeps up and cuts off a corner of Saul's robe.

David is conscience-stricken for assaulting the king.

1 Sam 25:1-12

David respected the anointing of the Lord

Contrast David and Saul (3)

6

David knows he is the next king, but will not force this to happen

When Saul leaves the cave David called out to him.

When Saul looks, David bowed down to the ground.

He shows Saul the piece he had cut off his robe.

He explains that he was not intent on harming Saul.

“May the LORD judge between you and me.” **Contrast!**

David will let God handle Saul’s future.

David respects Saul because he is God’s anointed.

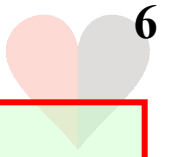
David just wants peace until it is his time to reign.

Saul realizes David is the more righteous, and goes home.

1 Sam 25:13ff

God judges by the contrast between us

Contrast David and Saul (4)



A similar situation occurs

Saul is not satisfied, and again tries to find and kill David.

He takes his 3000 men to the Desert of Ziph to search.

David and Abishai go among Saul's army by night.

They find Saul, lying asleep with his spear near his head.

Abishai offers to kill Saul in one stroke.

David again respects the Lord's anointed.

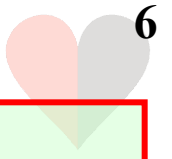
David again knows that God will take care of Saul.

They take his spear and water jug and leave.

1 Samuel 26:1-3, 7-11, and 22-24

This is the second time David was close enough to touch Saul

Contrast David and Saul (5)



Saul again looks like a fool and repents

David again shouts to get Saul's attention.

Saul realizes again that David could have killed him.

Saul promises to leave David and not bother him again.

Not long after, the Philistines kill Saul on Mount Gilboa.

David spares Saul out of respect for God anointing.

He also must have still loved Saul.

Why else would he punish the man who said that he killed Saul?

Why would David lament so over his death (2 Samuel 1)

David's remarkable attitude of the heart caused him to love his enemies in spite of it all. (More on forgiveness later)

David also behaved similarly with Absalom

Contrast: Man vs Woman (3)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What he heard: “Honey... Why don't you put your head in a vice and I'll turn the handle until your skull explodes!”

Non-sequitur cartoon

What she said: “Honey... Why don't we turn off the TV and just talk?”

Quote



Throw your heart over the bar and your body will follow.

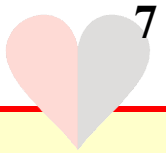
Norman Vincent Peale

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharaoh	Meekness / Will
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Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



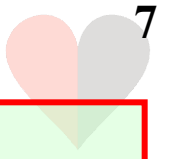
- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
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- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish
- Contrasts in Proverbs
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position



Contrast: David and Absalom

Family and Power

Contrast David and Absalom (1)



Is power more important than love for family?

Absalom coveted the throne of Israel

He provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him (typical campaign tactic)

He stood by the city gate and gave everyone favorable judgments

He claimed that there was no one in government listening to them

He promised justice if only he were in put in charge

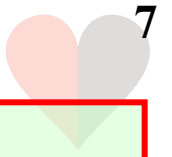
He treated everyone as though they were important

He stole the hearts of the people of Israel (from his father David)

2 Samuel 15-18

Absalom showed no love for his father

Contrast David and Absalom (2)



David let it get out of hand

A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

David realizes that he must flee Jerusalem or die

David has his advisor stay to thwart Absalom's pursuit

David has time to organize his army

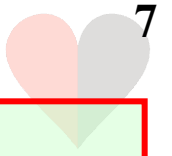
But David cannot bear for Absalom to be killed

He commanded Joab, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake."

And all the troops heard the king giving these orders

David had a loving and forgiving attitude, though it was impractical

Contrast David and Absalom (3)



Joab would not leave this serpent to sting David again

Joab knew that Absalom had to die to save the nation

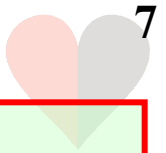
Absalom's handsome head (or hair) got stuck in the branches of a tree

Joab plunged three javelins into Absalom's heart

This ended the rebellion

The people knew that this would not be good news to David

Contrast David and Absalom (4)



David does not respond well to the news

David wept bitterly that Absalom is dead.

He said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you--O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Consider the depth of this father's love for his son

It takes a compelling, overpowering love for a man to grieve like that over a son who has tried to kill him.

Such was the heart of David, because that heart was very much like God's.

God forgives us even though we have sinned greatly against Him.

Contrast other fathers and their children (1)

7

Crossover between the generations

Eli and his sons

- Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD. They extorted the best meat, they slept with the servant women at the entrance to the Tent of meeting, and they treated the Lord's offering with contempt. They didn't listen to Eli's reprimand and were killed by the Philistines.

1 Samuel 2

Samuel and his sons

- When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. The people demanded a king.

1 Samuel 8

Solomon and Rehoboam

- My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions. The kingdom was divided and most taken away from him.

1 Kings 12:11

Other kings and their sons

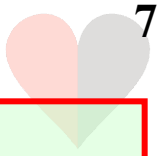
Even the very good servants of God had problems with their sons.



Contrast: David and Uriah

Loyalty

Contrast David and Uriah (1)



What is true loyalty?

**David was a great warrior: victories over lion, bear, giant Goliath, etc.
As he got older, he began to get lazy and let others fight for him.
His men were very loyal to him.**

One time his general, on the verge of capturing a city, sent a message to David to come to the battle line so that he could enter the city as a conqueror -- even though the general had done all of the work.

**It was during this time of idleness that he saw the Bathsheba bathing.
He was so taken by her beauty that committed adultery with her.**

Bathsheba soon sent word that she was pregnant.

David decided that he would call in Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, from the battlefield and let nature take its course.

2 Samuel 11

David first tries to hide his sin

Contrast David and Uriah (2)



What man wouldn't take advantage of being home with his wife?

David did not choose the wife of an ordinary man.

David had gotten used to a life where his pleasure had become most important, and he assumed Uriah would think the same way.

Uriah was one of the chief thirty -- one of his greatest warriors.

Uriah would not enjoy the pleasures of home when his comrades were suffering on the battlefield.

So even though David got him drunk Uriah would not go home because of the unity he felt with his army.

David wrote a note to his general commanding him to abandon Uriah in the field of battle so that he would be killed.

To add insult to injury, he made Uriah carry his own death sentence.

2 Samuel 11

David has to resort to more drastic measures

Contrast David and Uriah (3)



David was a great king in part because he had such loyal subjects

The interesting thing about this story is that David had a whole army of real men.

Uriah's comrades would not leave him to die alone in the battle, so there were many casualties before David's wish came to pass.

David was not only responsible for Uriah's death, but for some of the other great men in his army.

What loyalty and commitment are shown by all of these men!

Uriah is fully committed to the job that his king has given him to do.

That commitment costs him his life.

2 Samuel 11

Uriah drunk was a better man than David sober

Contrast David and Uriah (4)



What was the final outcome?

David paid for this crime with the loss of not only this child of Bathsheba, but three other sons as well.

He thus paid the full restitution called for by the Old Testament.

Nathan made David see the tremendous error of his ways.

He truly repented of what he had done.

David was a good man that just got trapped by his mistakes.

It can happen to any of us.

Thanks be to God that he forgives us of all our sins.

But we must stay committed to Him.

God blessed Solomon (Bathsheba's son) as the next king

We must be absolutely loyal to God



Contrast: Abigail and Nabal

Giving vs Selfishness

Contrast Abigail and Nabal (1)



Nabal was very wealthy, but surly and mean (and selfish).

Abigail was his beautiful and intelligent wife.

David was in that area avoiding Saul, but acted as protector.

David asked for some food as a sign of their gratitude.

Nabal disrespected David and refused.

David assembled his men to destroy Nabal.

When Abigail heard how David was treated, she acted quickly.

She took a feast to David, and met him coming in.

Abigail honored David, and accepted the blame for her husband.

David accepted Abigail's gift and went back to his camp.

The Lord struck Nabal so that he died after he heard what Abigail did.

1 Samuel 25

David married Abigail once Nabal was dead



Contrast: Joab and Abner

Ambition vs Loyalty

Contrast Joab and Abner (1)



Joab was ruthless, but loyal

Saul had died, but his commander Abner had survived.

Abner supported Saul's son Ish-Bosheth as king of Israel.

David was able to return home and was anointed king over Judah.

Joab was the commander of David's army.

These two armies fought to unite Israel and Judah.

There was a great battle at the pool of Gibeon.

Abner lost, but in the process he killed Joab's brother Asahel.

- **Asahel was chasing him though Abner pleaded with him to stop**
- **Abner could have claimed that Asahel just "ran into his spear"**

Finally, a truce was called and the armies went home.

The war continued a long time, with David winning out over Israel.

2 Samuel 2

Tensions began to rise between Abner and Ish-Bosheth

Contrast Joab and Abner (2)



Abner's loyalty was only to himself

Abner began to strengthen his own position in Israel.

- **Perhaps he thought he could become king**
- **Perhaps it was only to bring the nation to David**

Abner slept with one of Saul's concubines.

- **A similar story to what Adonijah tried to do**
- **This would have been a means of absorbing some of Saul's power**

Ish-Bosheth accused him of it and Abner vowed to defect to David.

Ish-Bosheth was afraid to say anything to Abner.

Abner sent messages and worked out a deal with David.

- **David demanded Saul's daughter Michal, who had been his wife**
- **Abner probably got a high position in the army in return**

2 Samuel 3

David sends Abner away in peace

Contrast Joab and Abner (3)



Joab is not at all pleased with this arrangement

Joab returned from a very successful raid learns about the deal.

Joab declares to David that Abner is merely a spy.

Joab sent messengers to bring back Abner without David knowing.

Joab took him aside, as though to speak with him privately.

There Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died.

- **The stated reason is to avenge the blood of his brother Asahel**
- **But there must have been jealousy as well**

David makes it clear that he had nothing to do with this murder.

He essentially curses the house of Joab.

David had Joab show sorrow, walking in mourning in front of the bier.

David walked behind, with the other mourners.

2 Samuel 3

David's actions please Israel and help unite the kingdom

Contrast: Man vs Woman (4)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What she heard: “Life as we know it will cease to exist unless you can alter the space-time continuum!”

Non-sequitur cartoon

What he said: “Honey... Are you almost ready yet?”

Quote



The nation had the lion's heart; I had the luck to give the roar.

Winston Churchill

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
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Contrast: Joab and Abner

Ambition vs Loyalty

Contrast Joab and Abner (Review)



Joab was ruthless, but loyal

Abner sought his own good

Saul's commander Abner survived to support Saul's son Ish-Bosheth as king of Israel.

David returned home and was anointed king over Judah, where Joab was the commander of his army.

These two armies fought to unite Israel and Judah.

Ish-Bosheth accused Abner of impropriety, and Abner defected to David.

Joab is very unhappy about the deal and declares to David that Abner is merely a spy.

Joab took Abner aside and stabbed him in the stomach so that he died.

David makes it clear that he had nothing to do with this murder.

David's actions please Israel and help unite the kingdom

Joab's obsession with being the commander 8

Joab did whatever it took to keep his job

Joab became the commander because he led the attack on Jerusalem. After killing Abner, David did not demote him.

Joab tried to bring about reconciliation between David and Absalom. When Absalom rebelled, Joab overrode David's wishes and killed him. Joab then saved David's position by making him speak to the people.

A man named Sheba immediately rebelled.

David made Amasa (who had been Absalom's commander) the commander of his army.

At Gibeon, Joab greeted Amasa as a brother, then stabbed him.

Joab went on to win a great victory against Sheba.

2 Samuel 19-20

Joab was a very effective military leader

Joab worked diligently to strengthen David's throne

8

Joab did not try to take over David's position

Joab destroyed many of David's enemies.

- Absalom
- Sheba (here he used his negotiating powers)
- The Ammonites
- The Arameans
- The Edomites

After reducing the army of the Ammonites, Joab had David come and finish it so that he as king could take all the glory. **2 Samuel 12**

Joab obeyed his king's orders.

- Having Uriah killed in battle, though he would not really forsake him.
- Numbering the men of Israel, though he tried to convince David not to.

But Joab backed Adonijah instead of Solomon.

He was eventually killed by order of Solomon.

David made it clear that Joab was a murderer.



Contrast: Barzallai and Caleb

Age and Activity

Contrast Barzillai and Caleb (1)



How do men handle old age?

Caleb was still blazing trails:

He was forty years old when he explored the promised land.

He brought back a good report, and followed the God wholeheartedly.

When he was eighty-five, he claimed to be just as vigorous.

He asked for the hill country, where the cities were large and fortified.

Barzillai refused the king's table so that he could relax:

Barzillai the Gileadite provided for David when he was on the run.

He was eighty years old, and the king asked him to return with him to Jerusalem.

He chose to stay at home, and asked that his sons be able to go.

Is it better to burn out or to rust out?

My motorcycle ministry



I'm too old for this!



Contrast: Solomon and Ahab

The king's greatest wish

Contrast Solomon and Ahab (1)



What should be a king's greatest wish?

Solomon became king after David.

He showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the law.

He went to Gibeon to offer 1000 burnt offerings.

Here, the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream.

God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon could have asked for money, wealth, long life, death of his enemies, or power.

Instead he asked to be given a discerning heart to govern the people, and to distinguish between right and wrong.

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this, so he gave him wisdom as well as riches and honor.

God promised that there would never be another king like Solomon.

Solomon chose unselfishly to help his people.

Contrast Solomon and Ahab (2)



Ahab was not concerned about his people

Ahab wanted a vineyard belonging to Naboth which was close to his palace.

Naboth refused, so Ahab went home, sullen and angry. He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

His wife Jezebel caused Naboth to be falsely accused of blasphemy.

When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she told Ahab to take possession of the vineyard.

When Ahab heard this he went there.

Elijah met him there to declare God's judgment.

Ahab then tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

God then decided to delay the destruction of Ahab's house.

Ahab's selfishness brought only ruin.

What would be your greatest wish?



What if God appeared to you?

Beauty pageant contestants:

World Peace

I would ask for the ability to inspire people

Think of the power that Jonah had, but didn't appreciate



Contrasts in Proverbs

Contrasts in Proverbs

Wisdom (17:24) A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

Obedience (28:14) Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

Anger (15:18) A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

Diligent vs Lazy (10:4) Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Tongue (15:4) The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Rulers (28:12) When the righteous triumph, there is great elation; but when the wicked rise to power, men go into hiding.

Discipline (10:17) He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Spirit (15:15) All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.

Giving (14:31) He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Plans (14:22) Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

Love (10:12) Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.



Contrast Jesus and Stephen vs Zechariah

Forgiveness

Contrast Jesus and Stepen vs Zechariah (1)

8

Earlier we talked about David forgiving his enemies

Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"

But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's temple.

King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "**May the LORD see this and call you to account.**"

2 Chronicles 24:18-20

This was the last recorded martyr in the Hebrew Bible

Zechariah does not ask that his enemies be forgiven

Contrast Jesus and Stepen vs Zechariah (2)

8

Jesus uses this event in a lesson about the response of God's people

And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Matthew 23:35

Therefore **this generation will be held responsible** for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, **this generation will be held responsible for it all.**

Luke 11:50-51

Some uncertainty about what Zechariah this is

Jesus states that the people must be held accountable for their rejection of God's messengers

Contrast Jesus and Stepen vs Zechariah (3)

8

But look at more personal views of accountability

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Luke 23:33-34

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

But I tell you: **Love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-45

All of **our** sins are forgiven through Him (from Colossians 2:13)

Jesus says that we should just keep forgiving (Matthew 18:21-22)

Contrast Jesus and Stepen vs Zechariah (4)

8

A human example

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them.**" When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:54-60

Stephen saw the real truth about our forgiveness

Contrast: Man vs Woman (5)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What he heard: "I'm going to make you wish you were dead for the rest of the week!"

Non-sequitur cartoon

What she said: "Tell me the truth, Honey... Do I look fat in this?"

Quote



We can break God's heart, but we cannot break His Love.

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Contrast

the publican and the Pharisee

the Prodigal Son and the elder brother

Realization of the need for mercy

Contrast the publican and the Pharisee (1)



Who has the right perspective about righteousness?

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector.

I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, '**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:10-14

Who realizes that they need mercy more than anything?

Contrast the publican and the Pharisee (2)



The Pharisee promoted the illusion of righteousness

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you **appear** to people **as righteous** but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:25-28

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:15-16

But as Mike mentioned, do we thank God we are not like the Pharisee?

Contrast the publican and the Pharisee (3)

9

The publican knew that there was nothing to cover his sin

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

Psalm 139:1-4

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13

God knows us absolutely, but still loves us

Contrast the Prodigal Son and the elder brother (1)



The Prodigal Son realized his need for mercy

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

Luke 15:11-19

He didn't ask for his relationship to be reinstated; he just wanted home

Contrast the Prodigal Son and the elder brother (2)



The father ran to him and forgave him everything

The son knew he would find mercy

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **I am no longer worthy** to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:20-24

The father treated him as a long-lost son

Contrast the Prodigal Son and the elder brother (3)⁹

The older brother was working hard, as he had been all the while

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

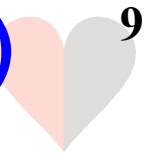
The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Luke 15:25-32

The elder brother was also fooled by the illusion of righteousness

Contrast the father and the elder brother (1)



The elder brother had “done his duty”

He steadfastly worked in the fields doing what his father instructed. But he did not care for his brother, and was not glad that he was back. He didn't really seem very interested in making his father happy. His goal was apparently only to receive his inheritance, too. Like the Pharisee, the elder brother did not realize his need for mercy

For I desire **mercy**, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6

So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; **we have only done our duty.**'

Luke 17:10

The father valued family relationships more than the work produced

God wants relationships, not false righteousness⁹

Jesus did not come just to save the “righteous”

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

But go and learn what this means: '**I desire mercy, not sacrifice.**' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:10-13

... judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. **Mercy triumphs over judgment!**

James 2:13

God wants a relationship with all of us

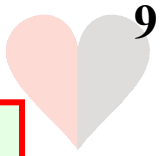


Contrast Mary and Martha

Vision: vertical vs horizontal

Like Joseph and his brothers

Contrast Mary and Martha (1)



What is the most important thing that we should be doing?

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

but only one thing is needed. **Mary has chosen what is better**, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42

Mary could see the importance of the spiritual

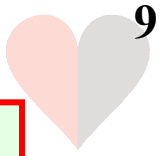


Contrast Peter and Judas

Vision: vertical vs horizontal

Continuing the theme

Contrast Peter and Judas (1)



Peter's perspective

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of **eternal** life.

John 6:67-68

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:28-29

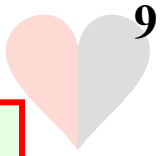
Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:16-18

Peter understood the spiritual, eternal nature of Christ

Contrast Peter and Judas (2)



Peter's response to God's plan

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

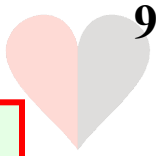
Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; **you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.**"

Matthew 16:21-23

Peter's perception was not perfect

Contrast Peter and Judas (3)



The plot thickens

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away--and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Matthew 26:1-2

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5

All the apostles, including Peter and Judas, heard what Jesus said

Contrast Peter and Judas (4)

The woman's anointing seems to have sparked a reaction in Judas

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

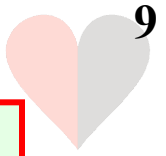
When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Matthew 26:6-13

Remember that Judas kept the money bag

Contrast Peter and Judas (5)



Judas did not agree with God's plan either

The version of this story in John 12 refers to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: Mary was the one who performed the anointing.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

John 12:4-6

Then one of the Twelve -- the one called Judas Iscariot -- went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Matthew 26:14

Did Judas react to not being able to get his hands on this money?

Contrast Peter and Judas (6)



Judas has a plan of his own

And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "**Surely not I, Rabbi?**" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." **Matthew 26:21-25**

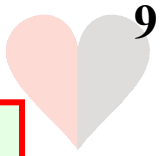
As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him...

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

John 13:27 & 30

Jesus makes it known to Judas that He knows what he is up to

Contrast Peter and Judas (7)



Judas went through with his plan

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

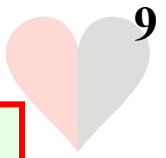
John 18:1-4

Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and **kissed** him.

Matthew 26:49

Judas appeared to be only interested in the earthly plane

Contrast Peter and Judas (8)



Judas did not end up liking his own plan any better

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled...

Matthew 27:3-9

Satan used Judas and then dumped him to suffer in his betrayal

Contrast Peter and Judas (9)



Peter and Judas both died because of their involvement with Jesus

Peter had issues with the implementation of God's plan that stemmed from his earthly attitudes, but he basically believed in the eternal nature of God's kingdom.

Judas might have been trying to spark the ignition of the physical kingdom, or even the spiritual kingdom by trying to force Jesus to act, but...

He was too interested in the money bag (John 12:4-6)

He acted on his own, without involving Jesus

He did not appear to love Jesus, in that he betrayed Him with a kiss

He did not understand the forgiving nature of the kingdom, and

He did not understand the eternal nature of the kingdom, for he took his own life (Matthew 27:5)

Peter died in triumph; Judas in despair

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (4)

The false shepherds want something for themselves

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

John 10:7-10

"I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** The **hired hand** is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the **wolf** coming, he **abandons** the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.**

John 10:11-13

The false shepherds do not love the sheep

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (5)

The true sheep will listen to the True Shepherd

The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 10:24-25

If we want to be protected (given eternal life), we must follow God

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (6)

The True Shepherd cares for each of us individually

"What do you think?

If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

Matthew 18:12-14

The True Shepherd is not just interested in the numbers game

Contrast: Man vs Woman (6)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What she heard: “Anything less than absolute perfection makes you an utter failure as a wife and mother!”

Non-sequitur cartoon

What he said: “Mom is coming over for dinner”



Our heads swell so much easier than our heart.

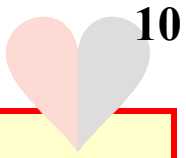
Peter Marshall

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharaoh	Meekness / Will
Joshua and Caleb vs other spies	Faith in God's Power
Job and his friends	Perserverance
Samuel's mother and the other wife	Handling stress or success
Ruth and Orpah	Love and commitment
Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
- Gideon and Saul's sons Humility and power
- David and Saul Respect for the Lord's will
- David and Absalom Family and power
- Other fathers and their children
 - Eli and his sons
 - Samuel and his sons
 - Solomon and Rehoboam
 - Kings and their sons (Good/Bad)
- David and Uriah Dedication and loyalty
- Abigail and Nabal Giving/selfish/gratitude
- Joab and Abner Ambition / loyalty
- Barzallai and Caleb Age and activity
- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish
- Contrasts in Proverbs Various themes
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position



Contrast Jesus and David
and bad shepherds
Nurturing and Protecting

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (1)

David has the heart to battle Goliath

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine... you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a **lion** or a **bear** came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and **rescued** the sheep from its mouth. **When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.** Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

1 Samuel 17:32-37

David risked his life to protect the helpless sheep

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (2)

Jesus is a shepherd similar to David

"I am the **good shepherd**; I know my sheep and my sheep know me -- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have **other sheep** that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that **I lay down my life**--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have **authority** to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 10:14-18

The key to being a Good Shepherd is risking your life

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (3)

There are others who claim to be shepherds, but aren't

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a **thief** and a **robber**.

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and **the sheep listen to his voice**. He **calls his own sheep by name and leads them out**. When he has brought out all his own, **he goes on ahead of them**, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

Jesus used this **figure of speech**, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

John 10:1-6

The Good Shepherd is a Leader
who has a personal relationship with the sheep

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (4)

The false shepherds want something for themselves

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;**

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And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is **happier** about that **one** sheep than about the **ninety-nine** that did not wander off.

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

Matthew 18:12-14

The True Shepherd is not just interested in the numbers game

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (7)

The leaders of Israel were generally bad shepherds

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them:

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.**

My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

Ezekiel 34:1-6

Bad shepherding kept the nation of Israel in trouble with God

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (8)

The leaders of Israel were held accountable for their failures

All of us are to be shepherds to each other

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

Ezekiel 34:7-9

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

I am against the shepherds and will hold them **accountable** for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

Ezekiel 34:10

God will rescue the flock from the false shepherds

Contrast Jesus and David and the bad shepherds (9)

God will personally look for His sheep

""For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. **I will shepherd the flock with justice.**

Ezekiel 34:11-16

God will gather His sheep back together as a flock in rich pasture

Contrast Jesus and David & the bad shepherds (10)

The sheep are also held accountable for their selfishness

"As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture?

Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet?

Is it not enough for you to drink clear water?

Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?

Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

Ezekiel 34:17-19

The bad sheep don't just take; they ruin things for the others

Contrast Jesus and David & the bad shepherds (11)

God will put a True Shepherd in charge again

""Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them:

See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:20-24

This is not a knock on our leadership.

It is a call for all of us to be a shepherd and caregiver every day

David is the symbol of the Good Shepherd

Contrast Jesus and David & the bad shepherds (12)

God will restore peace to the land

I will make a **covenant of peace** with them and rid the land of wild beasts so that they may live in the desert and sleep in the forests in safety. **I will bless them** and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. **They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid.** I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. **You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.**

Ezekiel 34:25-31

God just wants us to be His people



**Contrast the Good Samaritan and
the religious leaders
Compassion vs Duty**

Contrast Good Samaritan & religious leaders (1)

10

The Set-up

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

“Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered:

“Love the **Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’;

and,

‘Love your **neighbor** as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Was the question about the law, or about what was Good?

Contrast Good Samaritan & religious leaders (2) ¹⁰

The Follow-up

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:29

Recently in a meeting a co-worker said:

“You have to find out what the rules are so you can see how to stretch them to the limit.”

We only want to see how far we are required to go

Contrast Good Samaritan & religious leaders (2) ¹⁰

The Parable

In reply Jesus said: "A **man** was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A **priest** happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

So too, a **Levite**, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a **Samaritan**, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took **pity** on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any **extra** expense you may have.'

Luke 10:30-35

Is duty better than compassion?

Contrast Good Samaritan & religious leaders (2) ¹⁰

The Afterword

"Which of these three do you think was a **neighbor** to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had **mercy** on him." Jesus told him, "**Go and do likewise.**"

Luke 10:36-37

God loves mercy more than our own standard of duty



Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees

“Righteousness” or Goodness

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (1)



Struggles on the Sabbath

Gleaning in the grainfields

Matt 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5

“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice”

Man with a shriveled hand

Matt 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11

“It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath”

Crippled woman

Luke 13:10-17

“Hypocrites! ... should not this woman... be set free?”

Crippled man by the pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-15

Healing of the fittest

Discussion of circumcision

John 7:21-24

“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment”

They plotted to kill Jesus after one of these (Matthew 12:14)

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (2)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man **blind from birth**.

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

John 9:1-7

We are all blind without Jesus

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (3)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"

Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "**I am the man.**"

"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a **Sabbath**.

John 9:8-14

Evidently his "friends" brought him to the Pharisees

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (4)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

"He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "**This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.**"

But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided.

Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was **your** eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's **parents**.

John 9:15-18

His parents were brought in to help prove his identity

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (5)



10

The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

"Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind.

But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. **He is of age; he will speak for himself.**"

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that **anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.**

That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

John 9:19-23

Where is there any sign from the Jews of gladness for this healing?

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (6)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God, " they said. **"We know this man is a sinner."**

He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! **We are disciples of Moses!** We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **John 9:24-30**

The blind man is not afraid to do battle with the Pharisees

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (7)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And **they threw him out.**

John 9:31-34

The Pharisees were blind-sided by a man blind from birth

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (8)



The Man born Blind: John 9:1-41

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when **he found him**, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "**Lord, I believe,**" and **he worshiped him.**

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains. **John 9:35-41**

Jesus went back to talk to the man after he had been ostracized

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees R/G (9)



The real key is...

Would you rather be

“right”

or

Good?

“Right” is about ourselves; “Good” is about others (PDE)

Why are we more insulted to be called “stupid” than “bad”?

The Pharisees used to rules to try to dominate people, not help them

If we don't care about Goodness, then we don't love God



Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees:

Tradition vs Commandment

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees: T/C (1)

The Pharisees confused their tradition with God's commands

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples **break** the **tradition** of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

Jesus replied, "And why do you **break** the **command** of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to 'honor his father' with it.

Thus you **nullify** the **word** of God for the sake of your **tradition**.

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

"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 15:1-9

God wants us to obey commands, not for their own sake, but for Good

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees: T/C (2)

The Pharisees got lost in the details, missing the forest for the trees

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for **the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in **letters** on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, will not the ministry of the **Spirit** be even more glorious?

2 Corinthians 3:6-8

The Pharisees tried to define their tradition as Good, but it didn't work

God's will (word, law) defines Good

God wants us to obey from the Spirit, not just out of duty

Contrast Jesus and the Pharisees: T/C (3)

The most important thing is to do Good (thus be like God)

And Mary said, My soul glorifies (KJV: magnifies) the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Luke 1:46

How do we magnify God?

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And we, who with unveiled faces all **reflect** the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

(2 Cor 3:17-18 NIV)

A Christian should strive to make those around them feel good

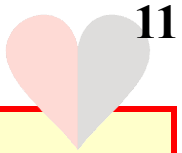
Think of magnifying God by increasing the Good in the world

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharaoh	Meekness / Will
Joshua and Caleb vs other spies	Faith in God's Power
Job and his friends	Perserverance
Samuel's mother and the other wife	Handling stress or success
Ruth and Orpah	Love and commitment
Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
- Gideon and Saul's sons Humility and power
- David and Saul Respect for the Lord's will
- David and Absalom Family and power
- Other fathers and their children
 - Eli and his sons
 - Samuel and his sons
 - Solomon and Rehoboam
 - Kings and their sons (Good/Bad)
- David and Uriah Dedication and loyalty
- Abigail and Nabal Giving/selfish/gratitude
- Joab and Abner Ambition / loyalty
- Barzallai and Caleb Age and activity
- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish
- Contrasts in Proverbs Various themes
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| – Jesus and Stephen vs Zechariah | Forgiveness |
| – Pharisee and publican | Recognition of need for mercy |
| – Prodigal son and his brother | Recognition of need for mercy |
| – Mary and Martha | Vision: vertical vs horizontal |
| – Peter and Judas | Vision: vertical vs horizontal |
| – Jesus and David vs bad shepherds | Caregiving |
| – Samaritan vs religious leaders | Duty vs compassion |
| – Jesus and the Pharisees | Judgment: right/wrong vs Good |
| – Jesus and the Pharisees | Tradition vs commandment |
| – Rich man and Lazarus | Wealth and power |
| – Paul and Jonah | Fishing for men |
| – Paul and Barnabas | Direction |
| – Paul and Peter | Release |
| – Barnabas vs Ananias & Sapphira | Honesty and generosity |
| – Jesus vs Herod/Pilate | Leadership / royalty |
| – Christ and Satan | Good vs Evil |

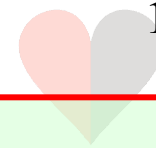
Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



– **Contrasts within our our own hearts**

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| – Pharoah, ruler of Egypt | go or no go |
| – Saul, king of Israel | quenched the spirit |
| – John, a Son of Thunder | love and hate |
| – Saul / Paul before and after the light | chosen causes |
| – Peter, Rock or Pebble? | strength and weakness |
| – Paul and his internal struggle | flesh and spirit |

A last word on Shepherding



**The Good Shepherd is a Leader
who has a personal relationship with the sheep**

Jesus was a gentle shepherd, who overlooked the sins of those who wanted to have a relationship with Him.

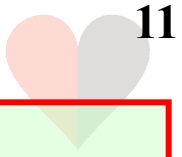
Many times we trade exchange a valuable relationship for our own ego and goals (and how we want people, like our children, to behave).

I'm not at all sure that "tough love" implemented at the cost of a relationship is worth very much.

That relationship may be the only link you have with someone you love. It is the lifeline that may someday be the only hope you have to reach them.

A good relationship keeps the communication lines open

A last word on “right” or “good”



“Being Good” vs “Doing Good”

Being good is like a child who sits quietly and doesn't break any of the rules.

Doing good is like a child who cleans his room and sets the table to help his mother.

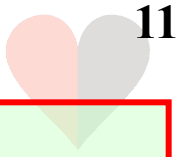
Both are appreciated, but doing Good is better



Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus: Wealth and Selfishness

Remember Abigail and Nabal

Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus (1)



The scene on earth

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

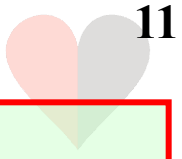
Luke 16:19-20

Why did Lazarus choose this gate to lie by?

Did he just assume that he would be shown favor?

Look at the contrast in their way of life

Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus (2)



The scene beyond earth

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side.

The rich man also died and was buried.

In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Luke 16:21-24

All of a sudden the rich man knows Lazarus

But the rich man expects Lazarus to serve him

The rich man finds himself needing what he wouldn't give Lazarus

Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus (3)

11

God explains the contrast

The rich man just wanted a crumb of compassion

What do you think that Lazarus would have done, given the choice?

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that **in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.**

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

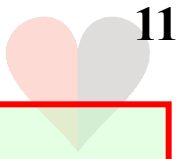
Luke 16:25-26

The rich man did not care that Lazarus would be tormented, too!

He is only concerned with himself

The rich man had gone where it was impossible to go back

Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus (4)



The rich man asks for mercy for those he did care for
He thought he was important enough to be granted this wish

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

"'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Luke 16:27-31

Still the rich man did not care that Lazarus would be tormented!

But God showed that they could not see the True Good, either

Contrast the Rich Man and Lazarus (5)



Do you have your own personal Lazarus?

My father's handyman

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave -- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28

Any of us can be in a similar situation; we must look for it

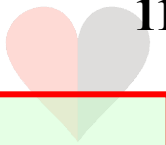


Contrast Paul and Jonah:

Fishing for Men

**Remember Jesus, Stephen, and Zechariah:
Forgiving your enemies**

Contrast Paul and Jonah (1)



Caring for the lost

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah **ran** away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up...

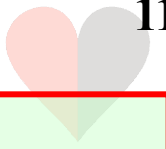
Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm...

But the LORD provided a **great fish** to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:1-4, 15, and 17

Jonah obviously did not care for the Ninevites

Contrast Paul and Jonah (2)



Jonah reconsiders

Jonah experiences the inverse of fishing for men

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God...

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days...

Jonah 2:1, 10, and 3:1-3

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us.

... when we were God's **enemies**, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son... (and) saved through his life! **Romans 5:8,10**

Jonah gets another chance, and so do we

Contrast Paul and Jonah (3)

Jonah preaches with great success

On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

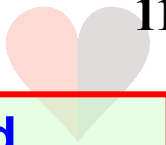
[the king said] Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had **compassion** and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:4-10

The entire city repents and turns to God: God's purpose is fulfilled

Contrast Paul and Jonah (4)



Jonah is so willful that he is angry that the people are saved
He is in great contrast with the will of God

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. **I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.**

Now, O LORD, **take away my life**, for it is better for me to die than to live."

But the LORD replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and **waited to see** what would happen to the city.

Jonah 4:1-5

Jonah still wants the Ninevites destroyed and not saved

Contrast Paul and Jonah (5)

Jesus called his apostles to be fishers of men

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed him. **Matthew 4:19-20**

... the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. **Go!** I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Luke 10:1-3, 9, 17-18

Another evangelistic effort with tremendous success!

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (**Luke 19:10**)

Contrast Paul and Jonah (6)

Paul was willing to sacrifice his own soul for his people,
even though those people turned against him

I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit -- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

Romans 9:1-5

Paul worked diligently to bring even his enemies to Christ

The task is so difficult, too!

How can we turn or stop a stampede?



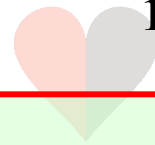
For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Acts 28:27



Contrast Jesus and Herod / Pilate: Leadership / Royalty

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (1)



God promises a king like David

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the **government** will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will **reign** on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7

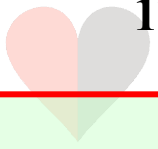
Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring **justice** to the nations.

He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.

Isaiah 42:1-4

The Messiah was to be a different kind of leader

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (2)



The first Herod tried to stop this

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem...

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Matthew 2:1, 3, 7, 13, 16

Herod would not allow any competition to his royal line

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (3)

Herod the tetrarch was also concerned about this

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Luke 3:19

Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead...

But Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And **he tried to see him.**

Luke 9:7-9

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. **Herod wants to kill you.**"

Luke 13:31

Herod also wanted to eliminate the competition

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (4)

Jesus was a different kind of king; he did not seek an earthly kingdom

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."
John 1:49

After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and **make him king by force**, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.
John 6:14-15

They took **palm** branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! " "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

"Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your **king** is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."
John 12:13, 15

This was indeed the king of peace

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (5)

Pilate had a glimmer of understanding about the kingship

So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the **king** of the Jews?"

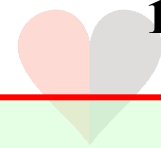
"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

John 18:29-35

Herod tried to find out the truth

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (6)



Pilate probes the mind of Jesus

Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a **king**. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the **truth**. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

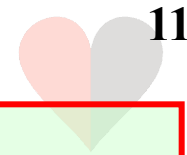
With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!"

John 18:36-40

The Jews had no understanding of the spiritual kingdom, either

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (7)



Who has the real power?

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace.

"Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.

"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

John 19:8-12

Herod ultimately cannot withstand the earthly power of Caesar

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (8)

Jesus gave up power to be the right kind of king

... and then twisted together a **crown of thorns** and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and **mocked** him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. **Matthew 27:29**

... and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And **they struck him in the face.** **John 19:3**

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "**We have no king but Caesar,**" the chief priests answered. **John 19:15**

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

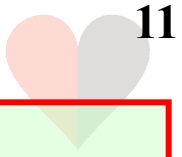
The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

John 19:19, 21-22

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice a king can make for his subjects

Contrast Jesus and Herod/Pilate (9)



Jesus is now king of us all

On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:16

Jesus carried His own cross, and also the burden of our sins

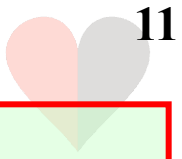


Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan:

The Ultimate Contrast

Pure Good and Evil

Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan (1)



The word “Satan” means “adversary”

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8b

Satan is continually trying to drag us down and rule over us.

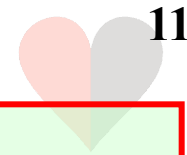
Satan wants to push us as far down beneath him as he can.

He wants to maximize the moral and spiritual differences between us and God.

He wants to separate us from all Good.

Satan is the prince of oppression

Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan (2)



11

Satan tries to trap us all

Job: But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has...

... and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 1:11 and 2:5

Jesus: The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread... throw yourself down... bow down and worship me."

Matthew 4:3, 6, 9

Judas: Then Satan entered Judas... , one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

Luke 22:3-4

... Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:48

... Judas ... was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders... Then he went away and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:3, 5

Satan is not always successful, but he keeps trying

Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan (3)

Satan's objective was to become like God

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!

You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

You said in your heart,

"I will ascend to heaven;

I will raise my throne above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High."

Isaiah 14:12-14

Satan, who embodies evil... is a personal being who sought equality with God.

Paul E. Miller, Love walked among us, p. 138

Satan brought down man in the beginning by offering this equality

Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan (4)

11

Jesus Christ wants to lift us up instead of cast us down

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but **made himself nothing**, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Philipians 2:5-8

You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me;
you stoop down to make me great.

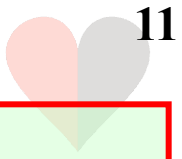
Psalms 18:35

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may
lift you up in due time.

1 Peter 5:6

Christ came to earth to lift us up to God

Contrast Jesus Christ and Satan (5)



The ultimate contrast

...I compared the description of Jesus in Philipians 2:5-11 with the analysis of Satan recorded in Isaiah 14:12-14.

Satan said, 'I will go up. I will become like God. I will push God from His place'.

Jesus said, 'I will go down. I will become like man. I will die to save him.'

This is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, contrasts of life - the contrast between Satan's way, which is also the way of the world, and God's way, embodied in Jesus Christ.

J. M. Boice, Christ's Call to Discipleship, p. 61

We must have the mind of Christ: humility and self-sacrifice

Contrasts: Stand out for Jesus



We represent God's glory on earth

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, **let your light shine before men**, that they may see your good deeds and **praise your Father in heaven**.

Matthew 5:14-16



We want to contrast sharply with the world

Contrast: Man vs Woman (8)



Why we'll never understand each other...

What he heard: “Your right to independent thought and ability to form an opinion has been revoked”

Non-sequitur cartoon

What she said: “I do”



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

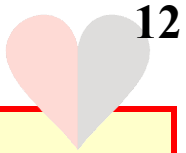
Proverbs 23:7 (from KJV)

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



Adam and Christ	Sin / Righteousness, Life / Death
Cain and Abel	Seeking God's Approval
Abraham and Lot	Content / Greed
Sarah and Hagar	Slave / free
Jacob and Esau	The importance of family
Rachel and Leah	Loved and unloved
Joseph and his brothers	Vision: vertical vs horizontal
Joseph and Potiphar's wife	Faithfulness
Moses and Pharoah	Meekness / Will
Joshua and Caleb vs other spies	Faith in God's Power
Job and his friends	Perserverance
Samuel's mother and the other wife	Handling stress or success
Ruth and Orphah	Love and commitment
Deborah and Barak	Faith

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- Gideon and Saul Humility and power
- Gideon and Saul's sons Humility and power
- David and Saul Respect for the Lord's will
- David and Absalom Family and power
- Other fathers and their children
 - Eli and his sons
 - Samuel and his sons
 - Solomon and Rehoboam
 - Kings and their sons (Good/Bad)
- David and Uriah Dedication and loyalty
- Abigail and Nabal Giving/selfish/gratitude
- Joab and Abner Ambition / loyalty
- Barzallai and Caleb Age and activity
- Solomon and Ahab The greatest wish
- Contrasts in Proverbs Various themes
- Hosea and Gomer Faithfulness
- Elijah vs Ahab/Jezebel Battle for/against God
- Daniel and his enemies Position

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| – Jesus and Stephen vs Zechariah | Forgiveness |
| – Pharisee and publican | Recognition of need for mercy |
| – Prodigal son and his brother | Recognition of need for mercy |
| – Mary and Martha | Vision: vertical vs horizontal |
| – Peter and Judas | Vision: vertical vs horizontal |
| – Jesus and David vs bad shepherds | Caregiving |
| – Samaritan vs religious leaders | Duty vs compassion |
| – Jesus and the Pharisees | Judgment: right/wrong vs Good |
| – Jesus and the Pharisees | Tradition vs commandment |
| – Rich man and Lazarus | Wealth and power |
| – Paul and Jonah | Fishing for men |
| – Paul and Barnabas | Direction |
| – Paul and Peter | Release |
| – Barnabas vs Ananias & Sapphira | Honesty and generosity |
| – Jesus vs Herod/Pilate | Leadership / royalty |
| – Christ and Satan | Good vs Evil |

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline



– **Contrasts within our our own hearts**

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| – Pharoah, ruler of Egypt | go or no go |
| – Saul, king of Israel | quenched the spirit |
| – John, a Son of Thunder | love and hate |
| – Saul / Paul before and after the light | chosen causes |
| – Peter, Rock or Pebble? | strength and weakness |
| – Paul and his internal struggle | flesh and spirit |

Contrasts in our own heart



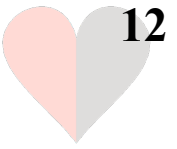
What kind of contrasts do you have in your heart?

How does our heart contrast with God?

How does our heart contrast with the world?

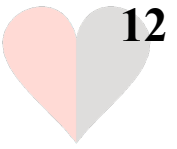
We want to blend in with God (no contrast with Him)

There may be a Contrast within our hearts



Peanuts cartoon

Our hearts are not pure



Murder

Selfishness

Adultery

Respect

Lying

Idolatry

Coveting

Pride

Hatred

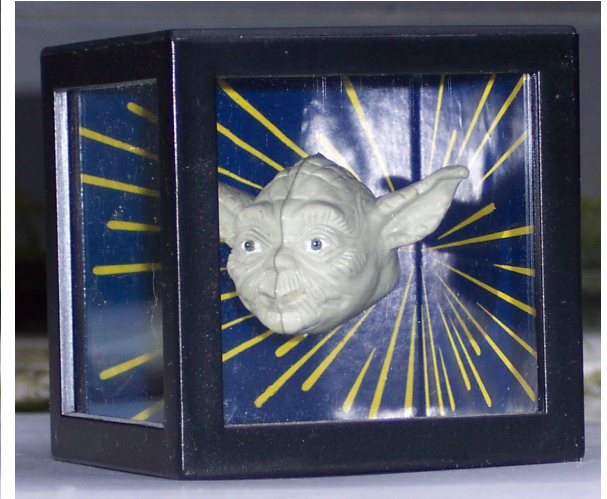
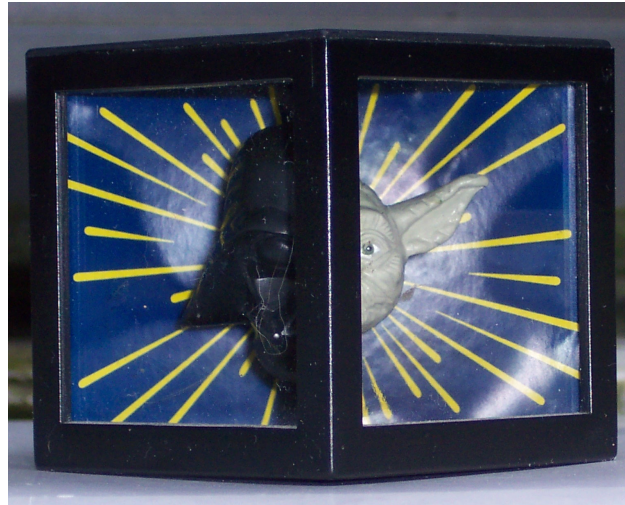
Slander



We all have a mixture of Good and Evil in our hearts

The view looks different from different angles

We act differently in different circumstances



We all have a dark side!

It's like being on a roller coaster!



We fluctuate between our best and our worst



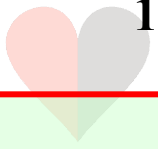
And we don't always enjoy the ride!



John, a Son of Thunder:

Contrast between love and hate

John, a Son of Thunder (1)



About John...

... he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them...

Matthew 4:21

James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder)

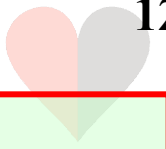
Mark 3:17

John was part of Jesus' inner circle of three (sometimes four, with Andrew):

- two sets of brothers, partners in business, Matthew 10:2 and Luke 5:10
- healing of Peter's mother-in-law (4), Mark 1:29
- healing of Jairus's daughter (3), Luke 8:51
- the transfiguration, Mark 9:2
- asking about the signs of the end of the age (4), Mark 13:3-4
- praying in the garden (3), Mark 13:33

John was known as the disciple that Jesus loved (John 13:23, 20:2)

John, a Son of Thunder (2)



The sound of thunder

Jesus knew the explosive nature of John

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

And he sent **messengers** on ahead, who went into a **Samaritan** village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want **us** to **call fire down from heaven** to **destroy them**?"

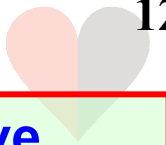
But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

Luke 9:51-56

Notice the presumption (like Moses) that they could call down fire

John shows his lack of love for people here

John, a Son of Thunder (3)



John's name ultimately became associated with the word love

Even though Herod had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword; he could have let this fuel his anger

This is the message you heard from the **beginning**: We should love one another. **1 John 3:11**

We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19**

And this is his **command**: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **1 John 3:23**

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. **1 John 2:10**

But whoever **hates** his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. **1 John 2:11**

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who **hates** his brother is a murderer... **1 John 3:14-15**

John, a Son of Thunder (4)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. **1 John 3:16**

Dear children, **let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.** **1 John 3:18**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God... Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

... if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made **complete** in us.

... **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:7-12, 16

John let go of the thunder and embraced quiet and gentle love



Saul / Paul, before and after the light:

Contrast between chosen causes

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (1)

Saul aggressively pursued the defense of the old covenant

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and... said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

... they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.

Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul... [He was] giving approval to his death.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

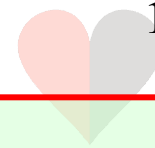
But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 7:55-8:4

But like a fire, the scattered coals spread

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (2)



Saul got an directional adjustment

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

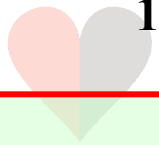
"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. **Acts 9:1-8**

He got to sit for three days with nothing to do but think

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (3)



Ananias must overcome the fear of Saul

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

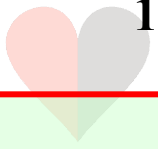
"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Acts 9:10-16

God knows He has turned Saul around

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (4)



Saul is ready to follow Jesus

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was **baptized**, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 9:17-22

Saul turns his complete energy now to his new master

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (5)

Saul now has to take what he has been dishing out

After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him...

But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord...

So Saul stayed with them... speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace.

Acts 9:23-31

He creates such a storm that he has to leave for a while

Saul / Paul, before and after the light (6)

Saul lived with trouble because of his faith (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. **Acts 11:25-26**

Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. **Acts 14:19**

But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **Acts 18:6**

When Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

Acts 25:21

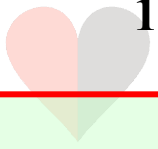
Saul made the ultimate commitment and sacrifice



Peter, Rock or Pebble?

Contrast between strength and weakness

Peter, Rock or Pebble? (1)

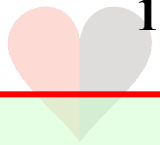


Peter was so impulsive and unsteady

Walking on water, then losing his grip	Matthew 14:25-34
Declaring Jesus as the Christ	Matthew 16:16
Christ uses this confession to announce the church	Matthew 16:18
Peter rebukes Christ for speaking of his crucifixion	Matthew 16:22-23
Peter bluffing about Christ paying the temple tax	Matthew 17:24-26
Peter falls at Jesus' feet (miracle fishing bounty)	Luke 5:8
Peter refuses, then accepts Christ's foot-washing	John 13
Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus, then runs for it	John 18:10ff
Peter sleeps through Jesus' agony in the garden	Matthew 26:33ff
Peter promises loyalty, then denies his friend	Matthew 26:58ff
Jesus asks if Peter loves him ("feed my sheep")	John 21:15ff
Peter jumps in the water to hide his nakedness	John 21:3ff

But Jesus saw great potential in Peter, and named him "Rock"

Peter, Rock or Pebble? (2)



Other positives

Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" **Matthew 19:27**

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." **John 6:68**

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there... **John 20:3-6**

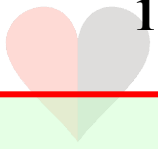
Then Peter... raised his voice and addressed the crowd... "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." **Acts 2:14-38**

Healing the cripple **Acts 3:1-6**

Courage in the face of opposition **Acts 4:7-23**

Peter's dedication was strong

Peter, Rock or Pebble? (3)



Trouble sticking with a great lesson learned

Peter was chosen to first take the gospel to the Gentiles, in particular to Cornelius, who worshiped God devoutly. He had to change his mindset about it (God sent a dream to help), and then he had to change the mindset of his fellow Jewish Christians. This he did as a faithful follower of God.

from Acts 10

... they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews... James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me.

When Peter came to Antioch, **I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.** When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

Galatians 2:7-14

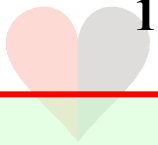
Peter was not perfect, but was a tremendous power for God



Paul and his internal struggle:

Contrast between flesh and spirit

Paul and his internal struggle (1)



Paul is honest about being a sinner

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

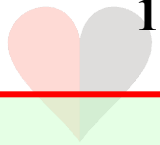
For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Romans 7:14-20

We all need to recognize our inability to be in total control

Paul and his internal struggle (2)



We all have the same type of struggle

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

Romans 7:21-23

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

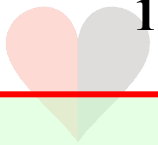
Romans 7:24

Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 7:21-25

God shows the contrast between problem and solution

Paul and his internal struggle (3)



Christ frees us from the consequences of the struggle

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

because **those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

Romans 8:9-14

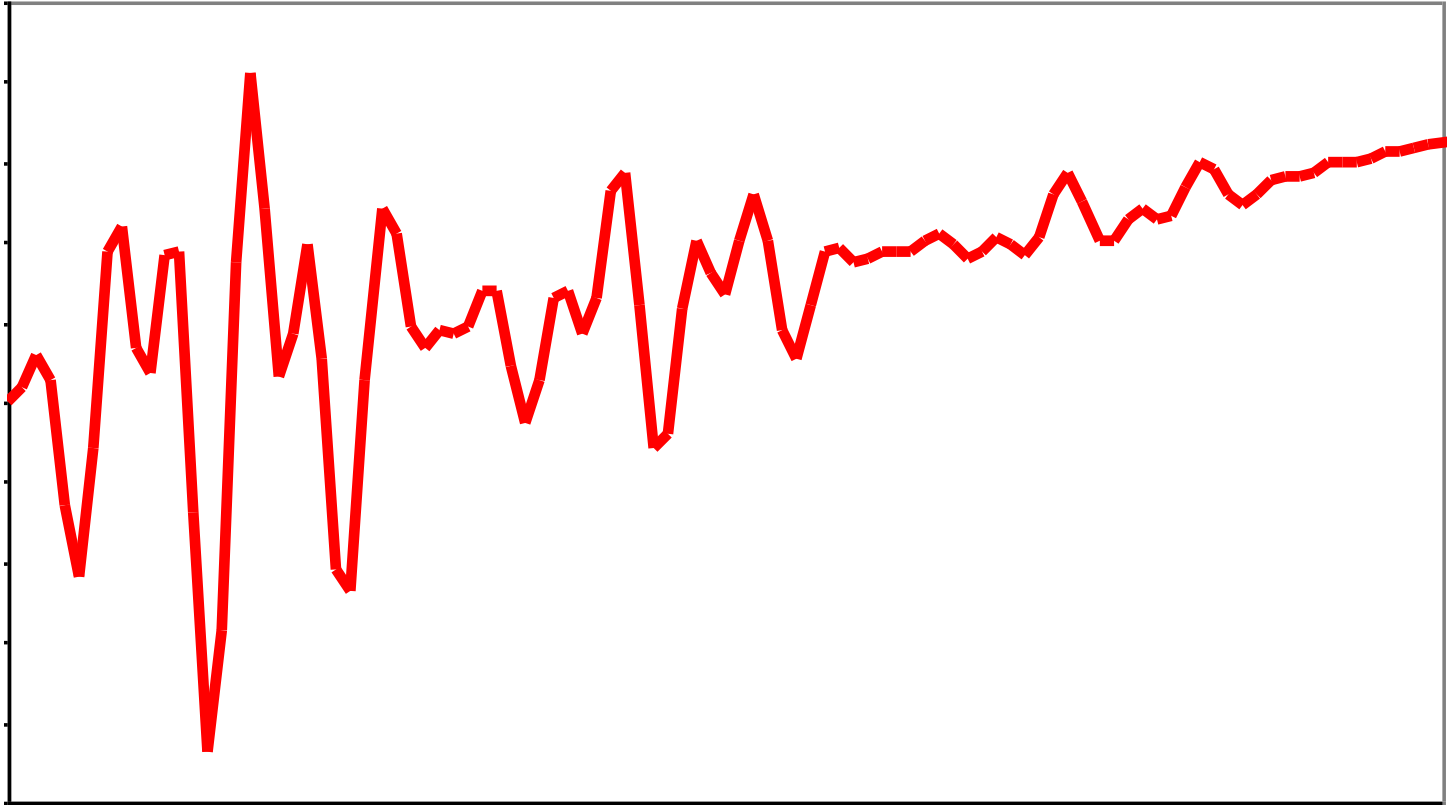
But we must be a true worshipper and follower of His

Minimize the Contrast within ourselves

Christ gives us strength to stabilize ourselves

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you **strong, firm and steadfast.**

1 Peter 5:10



God will help you keep the deviations in control

Contrasts of the Heart: Outline

**Israel's enemies
David and Judas**

**Melted Hearts or Stiffened Backbone
Aftermath of Betrayal**

Israel's Enemies:

How nations responded to God's people

Contrast between fear and courage

Israel's enemies -- Melted Hearts (1)

Rahab protects Joshua's spies

Before the spies lay down for the night,
she went up on the roof and said to them,
"I know that the LORD has given this land to you
and that a great fear of you has fallen on us,
so that all who live in this country
are **melting in fear** because of you.

We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea
for you when you came out of Egypt,
and what you did to Sihon and Og,
the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan,
whom you completely destroyed.

Joshua 2:8-10

Many people were totally disheartened when they saw God's power.

Israel's enemies -- Melted Hearts (2)

When we heard of it,
our hearts melted and
everyone's courage failed because of you,
for the LORD your God is God in heaven above
and on the earth below.

Now then,
please swear to me by the LORD
that you will show kindness to my family,
because I have shown kindness to you.

Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives
of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters,
and all who belong to them,
and that you will save us from death."

Joshua 2:11-13

Rahab and her people were filled with submissive awe.

Israel's enemies -- Stiffened Spines (1)

Philistines are at war with the Israelites

Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines.
The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.
The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel,
and as the battle spread,
Israel was defeated by the Philistines,
who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.
When the soldiers returned to camp,
the elders of Israel asked,
"Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today
before the Philistines?
Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh,
so that it may go with us and
save us from the hand of our enemies."

1 Samuel 4:1-3

The Philistines have it their way in the beginning...

Israel's enemies -- Stiffened Spines (2)

The Israelites use the ark of the covenant as a magic charm

So the people sent men to Shiloh,
and they brought back the ark of the covenant
of the LORD Almighty,
who is enthroned between the cherubim.
And Eli's two sons,
Hophni and Phinehas,
were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

1 Samuel 4:4

Israel's enemies -- Stiffened Spines (3)

The ark of the covenant has quite an impact

When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp,
all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.

Hearing the uproar,

the Philistines asked,

"What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?"

When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp,
the Philistines were afraid.

1 Samuel 4:5-7a

The Philistines are afraid, but...

Israel's enemies -- Stiffened Spines (4)

The Philistines respond to the challenge!

"A god has come into the camp," they said.

"We're in trouble!

Nothing like this has happened before.

Woe to us!

Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods?

They are the gods who struck the Egyptians
with all kinds of plagues in the desert.

Be strong, Philistines!

Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews,
as they have been to you.

Be men, and fight!"

1 Samuel 4:7b-9

Their hearts do not melt -- rather their backbones stiffen

Israel's enemies -- Stiffened Spines (5)

The ark of the covenant was not a talisman

So the Philistines fought,
and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent.
The slaughter was very great;
Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.
The ark of God was captured,
and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

1 Samuel 4:10-11

The Philistines overpowered the Israelites because God left them

The Power of God to Conquer (1)

God multiplies our strengths if we are true to Him

If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands...

You will pursue your enemies,

and they will fall by the sword before you.

Five of you will chase a hundred,

and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand,

and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

Leviticus 26:3,7-8

The Power of God to Conquer (2)

God multiplies our strengths if we are true to Him

But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands...

As for those of you who are left,

I will make their hearts so fearful in the lands of their enemies
that the sound of a windblown leaf will put them to flight.

They will run as though fleeing from the sword,
and they will fall, even though no one is pursuing them.

They will stumble over one another
as though fleeing from the sword,
even though no one is pursuing them.

So you will not be able to stand before your enemies.

Leviticus 26:36-37

David and Judas:

How people responded to betraying others

Contrast between renewal and despair

David and Judas -- Response to Betrayal (1)

Both betrayed a friend for selfish purposes
and caused that friend's death.

Each one dealt with his sin very differently.

Judas could not deal with it
and did not see the Grace
that could lead him through it and rebuild him.
but he showed remorse and gave back the money (Matthew 27:1-6)
He fell prey to despair and hung himself (Acts 1:18-19)

David could see that grace
and responded to it.
He prayed (Psalm 51) to be recreated or rebuilt
The outcome was that he and Bathsheba lost the baby --
but God allowed them to keep the relationship
and blessed it so that it
produced the royal line through Solomon

David and Judas -- Response to Betrayal (1)

**Attention of the betrayal was brought to both:
David by Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7 -- you are the man!)
Judas by Jesus (Matthew 26:25 -- it is you!)**

**We have all betrayed our Lord.
We must respond to it by strengthen our allegiance to Him
and our commitment to serve in the kingdom.**