



## The Overflow of Our Heart

Luke 6:43-45

- Continuing our study through the Gospel of Luke. We will be in this book though Easter of this year.
- You can find the sermon notes and link to resources in the Bible app by going to [www.secondcedartown.org](http://www.secondcedartown.org) or clicking on the links in the livestream.
- Want to start off by thinking about who we are as human beings. Like other creatures in this world, we have life – air in our lungs, blood in our veins.
- But what makes us different than any other living creature is our soul.

- There is a difference of thought on whether as humans we are made of two parts (soul and body) or three parts (body, soul, and spirit). Either way we look at it, what is clear is that this is what distinguishes us as creatures made in the image of God.
  - o Genesis 2:7 (creation of man): "then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground [body] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [spirit/life principle], and the man became a living soul [or living being/person]." Here, "soul" (Hebrew nephesh) often refers to the whole living person (body + life/breath from God).
- And these attributes of who we are work together in salvation.
  - o 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV): "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- When we are saved, the Holy Spirit is sanctifying our soul and our bodies.
- This is radically different than what Darwinists say about human behavior. Evolution teaches that there are certain behaviors that can be explained by looking at our evolutionary history as a species. So, they say people act out of some primal instinct that we need to gain control over.
- What scripture tells us is that we were never primal to begin with. We were created, in the beginning, with the capacity for abstract thought, the capacity to love and create, and the capacity to worship our Creator.

**Main Point: Our conduct is a reflection of what is in our heart.**

- Have our hearts been changed by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? That's the most important question. If it has – our actions will be the overflow of what is in our heart.

## **I. Happiness and fulfillment**

- a. Jesus started to preach on what we call the Beatitudes – this is the blessed or happy way of life.
- b. I think we all would love to live lives that are happy and fulfilling. That's a very common aspiration for almost anyone on the face of the Earth.
- c. We spend money, make plans, change jobs, and adjust everything around those aspirations in some way.
- d. Self-help gurus will spend their entire lives chasing and researching to try and understand what makes people happier.
- e. But Jesus takes all those efforts and essentially turns it on its head. He starts out and says, "Blessed are you who are poor." When was the last time you saw a best-selling book called – How to be poor. Or a new Netflix documentary on 5 steps to becoming poor?
- f. Blessed who are poor, blessed who are hungry, blessed who weep.
- g. Poor in spirit is the best way to think of this. When you are walking in the Spirit, it is contrary to the ways of the world.
- h. When you empty yourself of all the things this world says are important, you can be filled with the Spirit. That transcends all the circumstances of this world.

## **II. When others hate you**

- a. We are to commit to this even when people hate us for it. Blessed are you when people hate you.
- b. What is clear is that there is a way of the world, and there is the way of Christ. Those two things don't align.
- c. In order to follow Jesus, you're going to have to be radically different in how we interact with others.
- d. There should be something radically different about the way in which we treat others. We should be able to tell a difference between those who follow the Lord and those who follow the ways of the world.
- e. Give, show mercy, help others, love even when it's hard.
- f. This should be understood in the greater context of other passages. There is a balance here, of course. There is a time to be direct and to stand up. But the trajectory of our Christian walk should be characterized by our love. Our love of God and our love of others.

### III. Focus on your heart

- a. There is something important to say about focusing on your heart. So often, when we think about what needs to change, we start by looking at what needs to change in others,
- b. Jesus says in verse 37 – Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Then He says in Verse 41 – Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye.
- c. In other words – focus on what needs to change in you first.

- d. The context of judgement here is about eternal judgement. Judgement in general is necessary and a part of our everyday life. Who we trust, how to respond, what is best to protect us and our families. Those are judgement calls.
    - i. We also expect there to be temporal judgement carried out in line with God's law of righteousness. That is right and good for governments to carry out the will of God in accordance with Romans 13.
  - e. But none of us have the role that God has – we cannot judge whether or not someone will be condemned in eternity.
- IV. But where do you stand in your relationship with God?