

## "IS THINE HEART RIGHT?"

"And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot." II Kings 10:15.

Jehu's chief title to fame in the public minds is his indulgence in excessive speed. In the story from which our text is taken, a chariot was seen by the watchman in the tower at the palace of Jezreel. At first the chariot was too far off for the watchman to surmise who the driver might be, but soon his identity became apparent. His speed disclosed it. It could be none other than Jehu, "for he driveth furiously." Jehu was a dashing man who did things on the spur of the moment. It was touch and go with him every time. He was such a wild driver that there was a proverb in the country that if a man was a little reckless with horses that he drove like Jehu. One man makes his mark in one way and another in a different way, and this proverb about Jehu has lasted until our time.

Though Jehu is one of the least known personages of Old Testament history, yet, considerable interest attached to his biography, on the score alike of his character, his career, and his achievements. As a boy he was attached to the bodyguard of King Ahab. Under Ahab's successor he became a soldier of some distinction. His rise was rapid, and at an early age he commanded an army which laid siege to Ramoth-Gilead in Syria.

While Jehu and his staff officers were sitting in the council chamber at Ramoth-Gilead and planning a campaign, suddenly, a young man in the garb of a prophet, who had been sent by Elisha, rushed in and called for Jehu, and asked him for a private conference. After his request was granted, the young prophet anointed him with oil and declared him to be the King of Israel.

When Jehu returned to the officers, one asked him what was the errand of the mad fellow who had burst in upon them. When Jehu told the company what he had said, they at once acclaimed him as King of Israel.

As a man of the world, Jehu was versed in the ways of the courts, was experienced in both civil and military affairs, was bold in action, was a good general, was popular with his officers, was not over burdened with scruples, and was inclined to gain his ends by cunning and artifice rather than by force. He was pre-eminently a man of action. He had many attractive and good qualities. He was a brave and fearless soldier and general. He was noted for his decisions, promptness, sagacity, strategy, shrewdness, and success. As a man of courage, he threw his whole soul into his work, and was untiring in his efforts and unrelaxing in his determination.

While relying mainly on his own promptness and energy, Jehu had a shrewd eye to whatever would help to strengthen his position with the people. Hastening to Samaria in his chariot, Jehu met a man of much repute and sanctity, whose name was Jehonadab. As a protest against the luxury of his time, Jehonadab had withdrawn from the cities. He forbade his children to drink wine, to build houses, to plant vineyards, and commanded them to live in tents all their days. To get this man of ascetic virtue on his side would, Jehu felt, greatly fortify his claims. It would give color and repute to his proceedings. Jehu at once tested out Jehonadab's feelings in regard to him and finding that his heart was like his own, he extended his hand to him and invited him into his chariot, saying, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." Of Jehu's zeal there could be no question. In fact, zeal was his most prominent characteristic. His zeal is seen in his eager haste to attain his ends, in his scouting of difficulties, in the thoroughness with which he accomplished each task, and in the speed and skill

of his devices. But there was much that was wrong with his zeal. It was largely inspired by selfish ambition, by consideration of policy, and by the thought of personal reward. He was boastful about it. "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." The man who thus parades his good deeds is lacking in one of the first elements of true goodness and usefulness, and that is humility. It was something worse than boastfulness in Jehu's zeal. It was cruel treachery and deceit. He did not have the love of God in his heart. He had obeyed God's command and fulfilled His commission in one particular direction, but the real motive in his actions was personal ambition.

Zeal is a grand thing. It is men of zeal who have revolutionized the world. Moses was a man of zeal; so was Elijah; so was Daniel; so was Paul; so was Martin Luther; and so was John Knox. In their day all these men were mocked at as fools and fanatics and enthusiasts. But everyone of those men left his mark for good upon the history of the world. It is the world's enthusiasts who have been its greatest benefactors. It is the habit of some to sneer at enthusiasm and to mock at zeal. But let those who sneer at enthusiasm and mock at zeal show what they can do compared with what the enthusiasts and zealots have done. As for me, give me the person who has an enthusiasm about something, who thinks that life is worth living, and that there is something worth living for. The person who has enthusiasm in his work is the one who is most likely to succeed. If anybody should be enthusiastic, it is the Christian.

Having been anointed king secretly, Jehu was seeking to settle himself well in the seat of government before his enemies could get in a position to organize against him. In this moment he was naturally suspicious of everybody and constantly on his guard. As he drove along the road he saw Jehonadab coming to meet him. Now Jehonadab was a man of high repute in righteousness and honor, but Jehu did not know this. When he stopped on the roadside, Jehu looked with flashing eyes into the eyes of Jehonadab, seeking to read his very soul. He said, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?" Looking straight into his eyes, Jehonadab said, "It is." Then we see the smile on Jehu's face as he bent over and stretched out his hand and cried, "If it be, give me thine hand." He lifted him up into the chariot beside him, the whip cracked, and away through the dust of the highway dashed the restless horses.

As used in the scriptures, "heart" is another name for "soul" or the immortal part of a man. The heart is the center of our affections. It is the seat of our moral nature. It controls the adjustment of our relations with others, and determines our attitude toward God.

In Proverbs 4:23 we are told to, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Our conduct will be in harmony with the condition which our hearts maintain from day to day. The scriptures also teach that "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." "When God says, "My son, give me thine heart," (Proverbs 23:26), He means, "Give me all thine affections, let Me be their objective, let Me be the center of all that matters. Give Me thy hope, thy faith, thy joy, thy desire, thy love, and thy delight. Hate that which I hate; love what I command; desire what I promise."

A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all his thoughts. As the plant springs from, and could not be without, the seed, so every act of a man springs from the hidden seeds of thought, and could not have appeared without them. Act is the blossom of thought, and joy and sufferings are its fruits; thus, does a man garner in the sweet and bitter fruitage of his own husbandry. The secret of a beautiful life is to think beautiful thoughts.

God's Word indicates that the heart may be wrong and may need adjustment. It is our concern to see that it is right. The wrong heart is called wicked, evil, hard, and a heart of unbelief. It is our obligation to refuse to yield ourselves to such evil influences as come out of wrong hearts.

## I. Is Your Heart Right With God?

The greatest idea that can be presented to the mind is that of God. He is not a distant being, unrelated to you. The state of your heart towards Him must be right or wrong. Every sentiment you cherish contains in it some positive good or evil. If your heart is truly right with God: --

### 1. You will venerate Him.

When you are conscious of His presence, when you walk as under His inspection, when you fear His displeasure more than the frowns of the world, and when you give unto Him the honor which is due unto His name, then you will prove that your heart is right with Him.

### 2. You will submit yourself to Him.

There cannot be a sadder spectacle than a heart wrestling with its Maker's will.

### 3. You will maintain a delightful fellowship with Him.

## II. Is Your Heart Right With The Church?

If your heart is right with God, you will: --

### 1. Be a member of the church.

There is the church and there is the world. One will be renounced and the other will be avowed. If you have not united with the church, it is because your heart is not right. That which keeps you in the world and outside the church is something which you will not renounce, something you will not cast aside, some sinful association which you will not break, or some evil practice which you will not cease.

### 2. Love the members of the church.

In obedience to the scriptural command you will "Love one another." Do you love your Christian brethren and rejoice in their fellowship? If not, your heart is not right with God and with the Church.

### 3. Support the church.

#### (1) You will attend the services of the church.

If you have given your heart to Christ, and He has forgiven your sins, and the church has received you into its membership, you should honor the church by being present at its services and supporting it with your influence. A church is weakened by those who give it only casual attendance.

#### (2) You will help in the work of the church.

Unfortunately, there are always some people who have to be handled with gloves at arm's length, or they get huffy or miffed about something. Up the miff tree are those whose corns have been stepped on, or whose feelings have been ruffled. For your soul's sake give the miff tree a wide berth.

#### (3) You will be generous in your support of the church.

A good church member cheerfully shares in the financial support of the church according to his ability. A religion that stops short of one's pocketbook does not have a very deep hold on one. A stingy church member is never happy in the church. How could he be? His conscience prods him all the time. He feels so mean that he imagines everyone else is as mean as he feels.

#### (4) You will uphold the good name of the church.

A good church member always holds his church and its good name and prosperity as sacred as the apple of his eye. He is always ready to hold up for his church wherever he goes.

Conclusion: --

1. Is your heart right in its affections?  
Do you love Christ, His church and His cause? Are you striving for its promotion?
2. Is your heart right in its ambitions?  
In ambition there are many dangers. There are various types of ambitions, such as ambition for one's self or the praise of men. There is also ambition for one's family -- a righteous ambition for them to live noble Christian lives. Then there is ambition for one's country. Place the glory of God ahead of all of these ambitions. This ambition for cause of Christ is most important.
3. Is your heart right in its place of trust?  
Where does your heart's confidence rest? Christ is worthy of it and you can please Him only if you trust Him.