

**TELECAST SERMON FOR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018 (VALENTINES DAY)
"ONE HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM JESUS CHRIST"
ASSOCIATE PASTOR/TRUSTEE EDWIN SPROAT, SR.**

Thank you Jose!

Good morning, dear television viewers, can you recall the incident involving two sisters named, Mary and Martha, who one day hosted the Lord Jesus Christ as a guest in their home? This event recorded in Luke 10:38-42, tells how upon His arrival, Mary immediately sat at His feet as an avid listener, and was absolutely enthralled by His presence, and what He had to say.

Martha's complaint to the Lord Jesus Christ was that He should instruct Mary to help her with the preparation of the meal. However, He gently admonished Martha, for worrying about everything else, except her Spiritual well being, and that she should be more like Mary, who loved the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We too, being in presence of the Lord Jesus Christ's company will be blessed by today's sermon entitled, "One Heartbeat Away From Jesus Christ." And we will be strengthened to take to heart, and to cherish the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, as dearly as Mary cherished the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever felt sorry when someone received more Valentines than you did? Or, have you ever felt sorry for someone who received just one valentine? Valentine's Day is a special day to everyone because it is especially wonderful to be loved, and have people tell us so. Yes, love is displayed when one gives, or receives, a valentine blessing.

But there is something more wonderful than receiving a valentine from a friend. It is knowing that the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ is so loving, and large enough to include everyone, so that no one should feel left out. The Lord Jesus Christ came from the heart of God, and He is God's valentine to all mankind.

This is important because if we do not receive even one valentine, we should not fret but rest in the knowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ truly loves us. And we do know that He loves His people regardless of their race, creed, or color.

The Lord Jesus Christ looks at the heart of mankind, and not at the outward appearance. There was a time when His disciples were afraid, and the Lord Jesus Christ reassured them in John 14:1 saying, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

Over 2000 years ago, there lived a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who had a heart of gold, and was a ruler of the Jews. He was among one of the best in his community at that time, and he was truly a religious man.

He had attained great heights in the study of religion and lived a strict, devout life; in fact, he was a member of the select group called the Sanhedrin, which was virtually a religious supreme court.

However, he realized being religious was not good enough to enter into the Kingdom of God, and that he needed to be born again. Today, there are many like Nicodemus who also live good, clean lives, and serve well in civic life. They are honest in business, have good families, go to church, and even contribute to worthy causes. But according to God's Word, that is not enough.

We cannot rest our hope of entering heaven upon our own goodness, or works of any kind. Therefore, Nicodemus came to see Jesus Christ by night, and the Lord spoke to him, just like He is speaking to us right now, about His new Spiritual Birth.

In John 3:2 it denotes, "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

Just like Nicodemus, we can also visualize a similar picture which includes the entire human race who also must come to the Lord Jesus Christ. And if Nicodemus was caught consorting with the Lord Jesus Christ, he would cast out of the synagogue.

However, Nicodemus possessed a heart which was hungry for something better than what he had been taught. And surely, he was not satisfied with the rites, and ceremonies in which he participated.

Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ commanded Nicodemus and all mankind in John 3:3, "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Like Nicodemus, unless we are born again we cannot see the Kingdom of God. Every man, woman, and child born into this world may see the great sights of earth, but unless he, or she is born again, they will never see the Kingdom of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about the Kingdom of God, as opposed to the mineral kingdom where there is all manner of stones and jewels. However, God's Kingdom outshines even that Kingdom. And there is a vegetable kingdom with exotic trees, plants, and flowers, but God's Kingdom is filled with beauty beyond even that, and even beyond that which is within the animal kingdom, as well.

Nicodemus' first thought was that the Lord Jesus Christ was talking about a physical birth. He then asked this question in John 3:4, "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

The Lord Jesus Christ again commanded Nicodemus and all mankind in John 3:5-7, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

To be born of water is to be baptized by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ. And to be born of the Spirit means we must speak in God's unknown tongue, or language to prove that we have been filled with God's Holy Spirit within.

Despite his religious training, Nicodemus still did not understand the deep Spiritual truths of the Bible concerning God's Spiritual birth as defined in John 3:8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

The working of God's Holy Spirit in salvation is like the wind, and although it is from heaven it cannot be seen, and its power cannot be fully understood by the natural man. However, it can be heard, and it is a very powerful force of God, as shown when God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Therefore, God's Word declares that baptism is essential to the salvation of our soul, and we must obey God's Word concerning being born again of water, and of the Spirit to be able to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 is God's commandment to all mankind, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

And the only saving name in water baptism is Jesus Christ, because it is the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the Cross of Calvary to remove the sin of every man, woman, and child.

Therefore, Acts 4:12 confirms the authority and saving power vested in the name of Jesus Christ, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus Christ is God's only saving name, and when we repent of our sins, and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are removed as far as the East is from the West, and He remembers them no more. And at that time, we become one heartbeat away from the Lord Jesus Christ, and His blessed promise to receive eternal life in heaven above.

I John 5:12 also confirms our Spiritual decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior saying, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

And, everyone who rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will find themselves just one heartbeat away from eternal damnation in hell below. Therefore, the salvation of our soul is of the utmost urgency to all mankind, and today is the day of salvation for all who will hear the voice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:4-5 denotes this truth, "But after that the kindness and love God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Therefore, there is no more time, and don't delay the salvation of your soul because we all need the eternal forgiveness of Jesus Christ, through our saving faith in Him. John 6:37 further states, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

The Lord Jesus Christ spent the last few hours of His life comforting His disciples. And after He talked, and prayed with them, they sang a hymn together, before He departed to the Garden of Gethsemane from which He was taken by the soldiers to be crucified.

The greatest thing Jesus Christ did to show His love for mankind was to die on the Cross of Calvary to redeem us all from the curse of sin, and death. We were all born sinners into this world, and deserve the punishment if we do not accept His plan of salvation. And it is only through the shedding of His blood that there could be remission of sins from that moment forward.

Most valentines are heart-shaped, and there are over 750 verses in the Bible that mention the term heart. And from these references we discover that our heart means our whole self. And when we say, "I love you with all my heart,." we show the feel, and true love within ourselves.

Therefore, dear television viewers, your heart is you, and when the Lord Jesus Christ says, "Give me your heart," He is asking for your total self.

Our heart is like a house, with a door that the Lord Jesus Christ wants to enter in as depicted in Rev. 3:20, "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Therefore, today is the day salvation, and we must all hear His voice, and open the door of our heart to accept Him as personal Savior, Master and Lord.

Our heart is a miracle of God's creation. And our heart is a rugged organ consisting of four chambers, and four valve pumps which handle 5,000 gallons of blood a day, an amount that nearly fills a railroad tank car.

Our heart supplies blood that is essential to the body's circulatory system, which consists of 12,000 miles of vessels, and in the course of a lifetime, the heart beats two and one half billion times.

Although our body is a marvel of God's handiwork, it is our life which is far more wonderful than the body's physical functions. Yes, we are each a masterpiece of God's creation, a spiritual and physical being who is made to give God the glory, and to reign over the earth during our brief lifetime.

And believe it or not, there is no one else just like you. Our physical appearance, our voice and personality traits, our good habits, intelligence, personal tastes, and our innocent childlike spirit, together, make us all one of a kind.

Even your fingerprints distinguish us from every other human being on earth, past, present or future. And we are not the product of an assembly line, and therefore, we are unique.

But the most important facet of our identity is that God created us in His own image. He made us to be able to share in His creation, by loving, laughing and knowing Him on a personal basis, proving that we are indeed special unto Him.

Psalms 139:13-17 declares, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lower parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them."

Our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life in heaven when we are born again, and if we reject the Lord Jesus Christ, and His plan of salvation, our names will be blotted out.

Hebrews 9:27 adds this exhortation, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." In other words, after death there is no salvation, only judgment.

It is the heart that rules the world, and it is governed by love, for faith worketh by love, and the likes, and dislikes of mankind that rule the world. Therefore, Proverbs 4:23 instructs all mankind, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

The importance of our heart is stressed throughout God's Word, the Bible, and the Child of God must remember to keep his heart with total diligence, because God's Holy Spirit lives within our heart.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 also instructs, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

The price is the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and we must realize how important it is to obtain a clean heart, because without it, we cannot enter into heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone said that morality will keep us out of jail, but it will take holiness to keep us out of hell.

In Matthew 5:8 Jesus Christ reminds us, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." It remains true that the poor in spirit, rather than the proud, are blessed. And the merciful and blessed who are pure in heart will see the Lord Jesus Christ, God Himself.

Let's review this example of the rich man, and Lazarus in Luke 16:22-24, "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (Abraham's bosom meaning paradise.) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

Here we see that hell is separated from Paradise by an impassable gulf, as stated in Luke 16:26, "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

The term Hell, is a translation of another word which speaks of a place where those who rebel against God will be chained until the Day of Judgment. This place is the deep, an abyss, a bottomless pit, a place of judgment. The Lord Jesus Christ has the keys, and finally He will cast them all into the lake of fire, which is the second death.

Hell is an actual place of torment, wherein those who go there will still be able to think, and feel there throughout eternity. My dear television viewers, it is our prayer that you will accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, to avoid the consequences of having to spend eternity in hell below.

Therefore, we can see why the rich man was making a plea to the Abraham, to send some back to his father's house to warn his brothers as stated in Luke 16:28-31, "For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

That's why the Lord Jesus Christ spent 3 1/2 years preaching The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil to give them the opportunity for the salvation of their souls.

Romans 3:23 gives us this picture of mankind, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And there is none righteous, no not one. Besides that, the heart of man is desperately wicked and every imagination of the thought of his heart is evil continually.

And in Mark 7:21-23 we learn this truth, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

The Lord Jesus presents the logical order, and form in which sin appears, First, in human nature, "out of the heart;" Second, in the human mind, "evil thoughts;" and third, in human actions, "adulteries, fornications, murders," etc.

Romans 10:9-10 is God's description of believing, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, And shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Today, if we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we will all be just one heartbeat away from Heaven, and if we reject the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be just one heartbeat from Hell. Therefore, the choice is ours, and let us all choose eternal life in heaven above. .

Once upon a time there lived a man in a house that was shaped like a heart. One evening while he was sitting on the back porch, a dirty tramp came up to him and asked if he could sleep in a corner of one of the rooms. The owner of the house said, "You may stay tonight but you must leave in the morning." The tramp agreed to do this.

When the man asked the tramp for his name, he was told that it was Mr. Jealousy. When morning came, the tramp refused to leave, and asked to stay another night. Mr. Jealousy kept on staying at the man's house. One night Mr. Jealousy brought home some friends, Mr. Selfishness, Mr. Hate, Mr. Meanness, and Mr. Sin.

The owner of the house grew tired of his guest and friends and told them they had to leave. They said, "We will not leave." The owner of the house found the answer in God's Word that said that if he would let Jesus Christ come into his heart house, God's Son would make the other men leave, for they cannot live with Jesus Christ.

The man prayed and committed the bad spirited hobo's into the hands of Jesus Christ, and He did come into the man's heart house, and all the tramps left. Jesus Christ then brought His good friends with Him, Mr. Love, Mr. Joy, Mr. Peace, Mr. Goodness, and Mr. Faith.

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at <http://Jesuscomingsoon.org>.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Associate Pastor/Trustee Edwin Sproat, Sr. expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

Entire contents of this text © copyright 2018 by The Apostolic Faith Church (Jesus Coming Soon), Honolulu, Hawaii. All rights reserved.