

Friday, October 20th

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

There are certainly times when I feel like I have a heart of stone, and almost always it is because I have acted selfishly. I must admit to you that it is a sinfulness that I struggle with daily. I like to get my way, do what I want, and keep my things to myself. Part of it stems from growing up as an only child, but the rest is just my own brokenness. As a result, there are times that I get stingy with my wife, my children, my co-workers, and my friends. I am not the first to offer to go out of my way or give an extra mile gift, and every time I regret my selfishness and ask God for help to be better. Maybe you struggle with this issue also, or with greed, or with a fear of running out.

The only way for us to work with God to overcome these issues is to allow a new heart to be put in us. God needs to perform spiritual surgery, removing the cancerous sin that dwells within, and healing us to be who we were created to be. I believe that surgery practically happens through our willingness to practice sacrificial generosity. I once heard a mentor pastor who struggled with pride describe how he wasn't naturally a humble person, but he could do humble things, and through that practice God would form and shape him into a humble man. Friends, we may not all be generous people, but we can practice generosity time and time again, until God has shaped us into humble people.

Let me tell you, that when I got serious about being more generous with my financial resources to God, I began to notice a change in me. I became more willing to share my time, more willing to listen, more willing to offer my gifts to others. I still struggle with selfish

behaviors, but God is shaping me, healing me, and for that I am thankful. Praise be to God. God has a long way to go with me yet.

Questions for the Day

1. When it comes to money and possessions, where does God need to perform spiritual surgery on you?
2. How can you practice sacrificial generosity this weekend?