



## Week of October 14, 2018: Radical Honesty with Oneself

### Discussion Questions Set #1

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

“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 4:13).

In service, I shared a story about how my grandfather was diligent in discerning the condition of his vegetable garden in order to ensure maximum produce and also presented a key point that to ensure ongoing healthy spiritual growth and development, we must know ourselves clearly, seeing ourselves honestly through the eyes of God.

1. Are you aware of the condition of your heart? Are you diligent in probing for its condition?
2. Do you think we struggle with knowing ourselves clearly? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. What kinds of “outward appearance” type things are commonly looked at by followers of Jesus to discern spiritual maturity, instead of looking to the heart? What traps might these create for followers of Jesus?
4. How do you think the ideas of knowing oneself clearly and healthy spiritual growth are related?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts—(the actions of) murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander” (Matthew 15:19)

Even though King David is described as “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22), the incident with Bathsheba, and then the cover-up plan involving Uriah’s murder, is wholly disturbing to say the least.

1. Do you find it difficult to balance the knowledge that David was a man after God’s own heart, yet fell so seemingly easily into both sexual sin and murder? How do you reconcile these two realities?
2. In Psalm 51 – a Psalm written by David in response to this incident - David acknowledged God desires “truth in the inward being” and he asks God to “teach [him] wisdom in [his] secret heart” (51:6). He implored God to “create in [him] a clean heart and a new and right spirit within [him]” (51:10). If David were chosen by God because of his heart, yet required God to create in him a clean heart and new spirit, what does this say about our own need for a clean heart and new spirit?
3. Read Ezekiel 36:26. This verse is from a Messianic prophecy regarding the future work of Jesus Christ. What hope does this verse give to you?

### Discussion Questions Set #3

In the conclusion to the sermon, I prayed that we would each be given the courage to unearth the deception residing in our hearts, the boldness to seek out trusted companions who will reveal truth to us in love, and the bravery to re-engage in the life of the church authentically and honestly.

1. Which of these three tasks do you think is the most difficult for you? To unearth internal deception? To seek out trusted companions? To engage in the church authentically and honestly?
2. Have you ever taken the time to pay attention to the “silent thoughts” of your heart for keys to how God might desire to be at work within you? If so, what was the result of this experience? How might doing this more regularly assist us in our spiritual growth?
3. This question will require some difficult honesty and some vulnerability. What might your answer be to this question: “what is going on in me right now that Jesus is trying to change?”. Share if you feel comfortable.