

COVERSATION STARTER

We hear phrases around us like "follow your heart" or "I believe this in my heart" or "put your heart into it." In phrases like this and throughout the Scriptures, it is understood that the heart is more than the blood pumping muscle in your chest. How would you define what the heart is and how it works?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

As we look into the Scriptures this week, we want to look at the words of James from more than a surface perspective. We want to look at them with a heart perspective. Thinking about this, please read James 4:13-5:6.

In James 4:13-16, what is the attitude of the person described there? What do his actions tell is about what is in his heart?

James mentions in 4:15, that this man ought to say, "If the Lord wills..." What is James describing as the will of the Lord?

In James, 5:1-6, what is the attitude of the person described there? What words would you use to describe the heart motivation of person like this?

MAKING IT REAL

Our series theme is: "The challenge of living like Jesus is not about trying harder but allowing His heart to change yours." This challenge reminds us that if we want to grow in our faith, we must do so not through our own effort, but through drawing close to Jesus and seeing the beauty of his heart.

On Sunday, two sentences were used to describe Jesus' heart as it related to the two kinds of people mentioned in our passage:

- Jesus loves and obeys His Father.
- Jesus pursues that which is truly valuable.

Please take a few moments of personal reflection before answering: In the different circumstances of life, in what areas of your life to you find yourself more like the person described in James 4:13-5:6 or more like Jesus? Please be as specific as you can be.

If maturing in our faith means allowing God to change our values, what values would you like to offer up to God in prayer and ask him to change in you? Please take a few moments to share your answers to this question and then pray for one another.