

# SUBMISSIVE HEART

DAN OWEN // 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Many Christians have a hard time being confident in their relationship with God. Part of this is a response to how they are scrutinized by other people. They are watched by street cams, ATM cams, store cams, bank security cams, and every other kind of cam. Google and Facebook take note of every search and interest, and sell that information. Other Christians often point out the specks in our eye, whether or not they have a board in their own eye. We begin to wonder if God is as critical of us as the people around us often are. God, however, does not see as man sees. Man looks at outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

Peter and Judas are good case studies for this lesson. Peter had a few bad days, but Judas had a bad heart. Judas was always greedy. He was a habitual thief. He was following a well-worn pattern when he thought of selling Jesus out. He took the thirty pieces of silver just as he regularly stole money from the bag. His kiss of betrayal in the garden was harmonious with his daily betrayal of God's law. Peter, on the other hand, had a good heart, but a few bad days. Peter was politically minded. He took out his sword and assaulted a man in the garden because he was misguided. He denied Jesus in the courtyard of the high priest because he was disappointed. He had a hard time making a commitment to the risen Lord's agenda. But Peter always wanted to do what was right. He preached boldly on Pentecost, and withstood persecution. He reluctantly went to Cornelius, fighting his own prejudice. He refused to eat with the Gentiles and acted like a hypocrite, but he accepted Paul's rebuke and tried to do better. Peter recognized that people have to grow past their mistakes and slowly add the Christian graces to their lives.

Peter had some bad days, but a good and honest heart. God accepts Peters. We should too. Judas had an evil and rebellious heart, but he managed to fake it enough to have some pretty good days. He always reverted to his selfish nature. Judas proved again and again that he had a bad heart. God does not accept people who retain a rebellious heart. Saul had a bad heart. David had some bad days, but a good heart. Cain was of the evil one. He had a bad heart. Noah had some bad days, but he had a good and honest heart.

If you have heard the gospel and obeyed it through faith, repentance, and baptism, you just need to decide if you are a Judas or a Peter. God cuts those like Peter a lot of slack as they keep trying to do better. God has no patience for individuals resembling Judas. All of us who try to walk with God have bad days. Let's treat one another more like God treats us. Remember, "With what measure you mete out, the same shall be measured unto you."



# TALKING POINTS

We are always being watched. List some of the watchful eyes:

Judas had a bad \_\_\_\_\_!

Judas' heart was not \_\_\_\_\_ to God's \_\_\_\_\_!

Peter had some \_\_\_\_\_ days but he had a \_\_\_\_\_ heart!

\_\_\_\_\_, he denied Jesus three times!

Peter was \_\_\_\_\_ to commit to Jesus!

Peter acted \_\_\_\_\_ with the Gentiles!

Bad \_\_\_\_\_ or bad \_\_\_\_\_?

