

## **The double minded man.**

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Main passage: James 1

Other passages: 2 Kings 13:14-17, Acts 26: 24-29, James 4:8, Galatians 5

We are showing a picture of the beautiful city of Jerusalem, under the golden dome, which is a mosque, is where Abraham took his son Isaac and God provided.

More than 3500 times is this city Jerusalem mentioned in the bible, and it also says that to this city is where the Lord will be back in His returning, to Jerusalem. This picture was taken from the Mount of Olives.

This evening we have read the book of James 1, and I would like to talk about the verse number 8, that says that A double minded man is unstable in all his ways

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once about the sickness of the soul, we can suffer from sickness in the body but also from sickness in the soul.

In the bible we read about people that were sick in their mind, in the book of Deuteronomy it says that some sins open a door to mental sickness. There is people that is mentally sick and they need treatment.

Little is talked about the soul sickness. How can we know we have a soul illness? Many people including believers are soul sick.

Even king David, in one occasion wrote a psalm where he said : "Take my soul out of jail to be able to praise you", this was written by him in a determined time that he was depressed and talks about himself being in jail and asking the Lord for freedom to be able to praise Him.

Sometimes sadness is a sign that the soul is sick, we read in the bible stories of people that had soul sickness.

The bible talks about double minded man , is somebody that one minute is happy in the

other is sad, somebody that decides something and next day changes his opinion or does not remember.

We have not to be like kids letting emotions rule our life, when the bible talks about lack of stability makes reference to what happens to the one that is drunk , that person can not walk straight, is not stable, a person cannot maintain the equilibrium before God if we are under the bad effects of the soul, the soul is with us from birth till we die. There is spirit, soul and body, those are what forms the person.

Our body is the temple of God's Spirit, we have to take care of the body, we are His temple, we have to take care of the body and do not ingest things that can harm it or make you to be a slave of what you drink for example. Paul recommends Timothy to take care of himself. The bible also talks about taking care of the mind, it says to think as Jesus thought, to have holy thoughts, pure thoughts, but somebody that is double minded it means that his/her soul

is sick, we could say he or she is bipolar spiritually and you see different reactions in the same person, even a christian, bipolar spiritually, is having an internal conflict, a fight between the soul and the spirit.

To understand this we should read the story of Jacob's wife, Rebeca, she had a internal fight and she went to ask the Lord, that is what we always should do, ask the Lord, and the Lord told her that she was pregnant of two and one would serve the other, Jacob was very different from Esau, and Paul makes an analogy in the fight that all human beings have inside, In the case of this two brothers, Jacob and Esau, one, Jacob, wanted more of God and the other, Esau, was more materialistic. This is the same within a person. The spirit is dead before knowing Jesus who is the author of life, someone that has not Jesus in his/her heart is spiritually dead, is disconnected from his or her Creator, they are alive but spiritually are dead, and is not till we find God through Jesus that we live again.

Soul will be with us till we die, and the spirit is the one that has to prevail, somebody that is dominated by the soul is the one that reacts different, they fluctuate, there is an internal war because the heart is divided, that is why the bible says "blessed be the clean of spirit"

A person that is dominated by the emotions is not a solid person, sometimes in churches that happens, emotions are the ones that control and they are confusing, moods are the ones that control, but you have to be under the the influence of the Spirit of God. A double minded person is not able to be firm in his decisions, not even that person knows what is happening, that person is not spiritually constant, is something that is stronger than him or her, they have serious emotional problems, not constant, fluctuant all the time, double minded, one day they think something and the other day they think something different.

2 Kings 13:14-17 tells us a story of a very bad king that in a moment he seemed very spiritual. An unbalanced person can seem to be very spiritual but is really emotional and not spiritual. When Elisha died nobody took his place and the country went into a spiritual crisis, Jehoash the king cried. He was a very bad king, he did the evil in front of God, but there is a moment in which he gets emotional he says the same that Elisha said to Elijah when he was been taken to the presence of the Lord, there is a moment of spiritually, and Elisha says to him, "You are going to defeat Syria but in this king when listening to this great news there is not joy and he goes back to his routine, so Elisha says to him "Get an arrow and that is a salvation arrow because God is going to bring salvation to Israel" And the king when listening to this instead of getting very happy he is the same, and then Elisha tells him to do something different. Verse 18 and 19. Elisha we could say is trying to encourage the king but there is not any enthusiasm in the king.

I ask today, Do you get encouraged, are you joyfull buy what the Lord has said He is going to do in your life and among us in the last days?

Until today Syria is still an enemy to Israel but if the king would have had more enthusiasm and courage that would not be the case. How many blessing are we losing because our lack of enthusiasm? Because we are not being centered in the things of God.

Because of the lack of enthusiasm of the king the victory was not permanent but only temporal and with time Syria recovered and keeps being an enemy of Israel today.

In the bible it tells us about a young man that asked the Lord what to do to gain everlasting life, the Lord saw his lack of enthusiasm, and said to him, "sell all you have and come and follow me", but this young man got very sad because he wanted to keep with his comfort, he did not want his life to be changed, he thought it was not worth it to sell everything to follow the Lord. That is also the way that other people reacted when the Lord asked them to leave everything and follow Him. You can not say to the Lord wait, my family is first and then is you, that is not good, that is not what the Lord wants.

The lack of enthusiasm closes the doors of heaven, it makes that the blessings that the Lord has for be for another person, the lack of wanting, of enthusiasm may make for you to lose blessings, it may prevent you from being used by the Lord, prevent you from receiving blessings.

Acts 26: 24-29.

The lack of enthusiasm, a double minded man or woman is inconstant in all his/her ways. The king was not enthusiastic by the victory over the enemy.

Sometimes you ask these kind of persons to do something and they do it without enthusiasm, the bible says that we have to have joy in all we do for the Lord, He doesn't want depressed persons, persons that are tired of worldly things, a double minded person has an internal fight constantly. The problem with these persons is that they don't want to leave the word, they want the best of the word and the best of Jesus, but the Lord wants exclusivity, the lack of courage takes away the faith of the believer, for one moment they believe but the next moment they don't. These persons are like the waves of the sea, that stay and there are no changes, always the same, no transformation, no growth, no stability, no maturity in the Lord, some days they say "count on me" and then the next day they disappear, they fluctuate.

I would not like this sickness of the soul to trap you and neutralize your spiritual growth, remember the promises you have made to the Lord, where are all those promises you made to the Lord? It is better not to promise than to promise and don't comply.

Soul sickness is a sickness that needs to be treated and the best way James said is, James 4:8, to get close to God, come near to God and he will come near to you, purify your heart, it is a problem from the heart, we are not talking about the heart as the muscle, the heart is where emotions are, it is the emotional part of the person, that is why the bible says "over all things guard your heart", we are using biblical language, we are not talking in cardiologic terms.

Jesus said to the religious people: "You give lots of importance to what enters inside your mouth, but that is not the most important thing, the problem is not what comes in but what comes out and He tells them something that they have never heard before.

You have to control your emotions because if not they will end up controlling you. You can either stop this or feed this for that sickness to be bigger. Paul says that we can break those fortress, we have power to overthrow those fortresses that we have lifted up, shames, sadness, distrust. Don't rule your life by the feelings consequence of being hurt by people. With your family, at your work, your church, take away that breastplate where we hide, we pretend to be someone but we are not really like that. Look at what Jesus said to the samaritan woman, God has not called us to win discussions but to win souls, the way to praise him is in spirit and truth, is not so important where, but in spirit and truth. Let's put in order your life, your family. First step to is to recognize, do not pretend, recognize, like the samaritan woman did recognizing she did not have a husband. The samaritan woman said: "I think you are a prophet" First she was arguing and now she changed and said that he was a prophet. How the Lord restored with His love the broken heart of this woman. She was an emotionally broken woman till she knows the Lord and He showed to her that the way of life she was having was not the right one.

It is like king Saul, he feed jealousy and that molded his character and became an slave of jealousy that contaminated all and harmed himself, his family and his country and he ended up killing himself.

A person with double mind is an slave and the Lord has come to make us free. Galatians 5. Other people will want to take you back to the past, don't go back to the past but live in the freedom of the sons and daughter of God, don't go again to be slaves.

If you have emotional problems, if it is hard for you to maintain your frame of mind, your mood, if it is hard for you to maintain stability me praying for you now wont solve the problem I would be lying to you if I told you that if I prayed for you now would solve it, but when you have problems with the soul you have to have a discipline that takes time, it is not easy, you have to read the word of God, spend less time watching television and more time reading the bible, that is going to fortify your spirit, your immune system's spiritually talking, it is going to give you the strength for your spirit to fight against your emotions, take time for your spiritual life, pray more, read the bible, forgive, someone who does not forgive will be sick, you have to forgive, you can transmit that to your family, to your sons and daughters. Sometimes in the way we react we are like our family, not only in the physical appearance but also in the way we react, spiritually we can also transmit the blessings to other people. In the bible Jethro had 5 different names in the Old Testament, the bible tells us that Jethro sees how Moses is very stressed and he advised him to choose people to help him take care of the people and there is says that the Lord took from the spirit of Moses and transmitted it to the rest of these chosen one to help him take care and pastor the people of Israel.

Jesus said to the disciples that the peace of them would be in the house where they were welcomed, Jesus said to them: "My peace I give you" and that is what they had therefore they could give it. You cannot give what you don't have, we transmit our animic part and also our spiritual part, and it is very important for us to strengthen that with prayer and with the bible so you know how to react in every moment.

A double minded person knows the theory but the split comes when taking that theory into practice. Jesus went to the mountain to pray and he saw the disciples very tired paddling in the boat. In middle of the night the Lord went to them walking over the water, they saw Him, some thought He was a ghost, but one of them, Peter said, Lord if it is you allow me to walk with you over the waters. All of them could have gone out of the boat and walk over the waters, all believed who the Lord was, they knew Him, but only one dared to go out of the boat and go walking towards the Lord. This is the big difference between the person that has his ideas clear and the other one that his faith is only words, from the mouth out. God is almighty everywhere, always, He has not changed, He is almighty always, and that theory we have to pass onto our personal lives and issues and to our realities and when God is with us we can walk over the sea, everything you have been trying in your own strength with the Lord it changes.

You can pray to the Lord to help you not to be religious, to break with your habits. God does miracles and says: "Go and do not sin anymore so something worst does not come to you".

All of us have had problems of being double minded but in the name of Jesus if we strength our spiritual life we can overcome any debility, any obstacle, because greater is the one that is with us than the one that comes against us, Amen. We need to pray for the Lord to renew our strength, give us a victorious week, do not be discouraged, the Lord is with you, fight, be strong and of a good courage.