

Devotion

Singleness of Heart, Jeremiah 32:39

Singleness of Heart

- Many of the Psalms written by King David were written for a specific time or event in his life
- Psalm 51 is a prayer of repentance after his sin with Bathsheba and others where King David is struggling with something
- Psalm 86 does not seem to have been written by King David for a particular event, but was a prayer he often used to remind him of his need to be in the moment with God

Singleness of Heart

- **Psalm 86:11 NIV**, “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.”
- **AMP**, “Teach me Your way, O Lord, I will walk and live in Your truth; Direct my heart to fear Your name [with awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder].”

Singleness of Heart

- Federal Marshalls showing up at work
 - I was immediately filled with awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder – Why?
 - I immediately perceived their authority, their ability to inflict their will on me quickly, there was a sense of dangerous about them
 - I had single thing on my mind that day – listen and obey

Singleness of Heart

- This is what God calls a “*singleness of heart and action*”
- Now if these men could inflict that response in me, what does this tell us about our response God?
- He has all authority, power, this is His world
- We must have that same sense of awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder as we go about our daily lives
- Not shake in your shoes fear, but a true sense of awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder

Singleness of Heart

- This is what King David is asking God for (*give me*), an undivided heart that is actively ready to hear and obey you O God
- A heart and mind of devotion, singleness
- King David also knew this singlemindedness is not something he was born with
- God graces us with it and we learn to yield ourselves to it

Scripture

- **Jeremiah 32:39 NIV**, “I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them.”

God is speaking to the Nation of Israel and by application every born-again child of God

- God is promising to bring back the people of Israel from every place He drove them
- When they come back, they will come back differently
- Ultimately this finds its fulfillment when Christ returns to earth

God is speaking to the Nation of Israel and by application every born-again child of God

- We as children of God live in a there but not yet there moment until Christ returns
 - We are in this world but not of this world through Christ Jesus
 - We have been made a “*new creation*” in Christ Jesus with a new heart bent towards God rather than ourselves

God is speaking to the Nation of Israel and by application every born-again child of God

- We live in a there but not yet there moment until Christ returns
 - But we also still struggle with our old sinful, prideful, me-first nature
 - So, Jeremiah has been fully fulfilled in our lives in God's sight, but we must realize and chose to live out this singleness

This singleness of heart and action, just like salvation, is a gift from God

- Salvation is not just the forgiveness of our sin debt
- It is a making of a new creation in Christ Jesus
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17-18 NLT**, 17 “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person (*how God sees and responds to you*). The old life is gone (*has been replaced*); a new life has begun!
18 And all of this is a gift from God.”

This singleness of heart and action, just like salvation, is a gift from God

- Think of a beautiful flower planted in a weed patch
 - The goal is for that beautiful flower to fully take over the weed patch and it will over time as you keep removing the weeds and nurturing the flower

This singleness of heart and action, just like salvation, is a gift from God

- Think of a beautiful flower planted in a weed patch
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27 NLT**, 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit (*attitude*) in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn (*rebellious, sinful*) heart (*desires*) and give you a tender, responsive heart (*toward God*). 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow (*giving you the desire to*) my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- “Singleness of heart (*desire*) and action”
- You can say “I love my wife or husband”, Post it on social media, purchase time on a billboard – but does this prove you love your wife/husband
- No, they are just words that have little meaning unless there is action behind them that demonstrates this love

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- God has chosen marriage to demonstrate His definition of singleness
- **Genesis 2:23-24 NIV**, 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”
 - 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh (*singleness*).

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- Wedding Vows- Do you Jared take Molly to be your wedded wife? To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health, to love and to cherish, forsaking all others and clinging only to her, till death do you part

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- So, there are things we will do and not do to promote the growth and wellbeing of our marriage but also our relationship with God
 - We will purposefully remove the weeds surrounding this beautiful new life
 - We will nurture and feed this new heart or desires given us

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- So, there are things we will do and not do...
 - We will train our minds on the truth of God's word and way
 - We will wrestle and pin down the weeds in lives
 - We will turn around and do it again tomorrow
 - We will leave the results to God

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- What results can we expect?
 - “That all will then go well for them and for their children after them.”
 - **MSG**, “that they can live good and whole (*complete, full, whole, blessed*) lives”

A singleness of heart is revealed by your singleness of action

- Not easy nor without struggles nor pain, but when you turn around and look at the whole you will be able to say, “I have been blessed beyond measure.”
- And that example will be passed down to your children as an example of blessed living
- They must make their own choices, but your life will be ever present in their minds

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- A house or marriage is only as strong as the foundation it rests upon
- If the foundation is weak, it will not be able to withstand the weeds of this world
- But if it is strong, the gates of hell will not be able to overcome it

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- Singleness of heart and action was easy for me facing the Federal Marshalls
 - Not because I loved them but there was a respect and admiration for their position and power
 - I was not afraid of them or what they would do to me, so it was not fear of harm
 - I did not have a singleness of heart and action because I had the feelings of love toward them

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- We try and rest our singleness toward God based upon our feelings of love
 - The feeling of love is just an emotion that can come and go
 - The feeling of love is a wonderful addition to singleness but is never to be used to justify or define it

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- The foundation of my singleness of heart toward the Marshalls came from who they were and their authority
- The Bible calls this reverential fear and is the foundation of our singleness toward God
- “So that they will always fear me”
- We are in a relationship with Almighty God, and He has demands, not requests, upon our lives

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- We in this country are in sort of a disadvantage because we have no clue what it means to be ruled by a king with absolute authority
 - Respect and awe for a position is lacking unless we have been taught that
 - In fact, we mistrust those in authority over us and if not careful that attitude will flow towards God

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

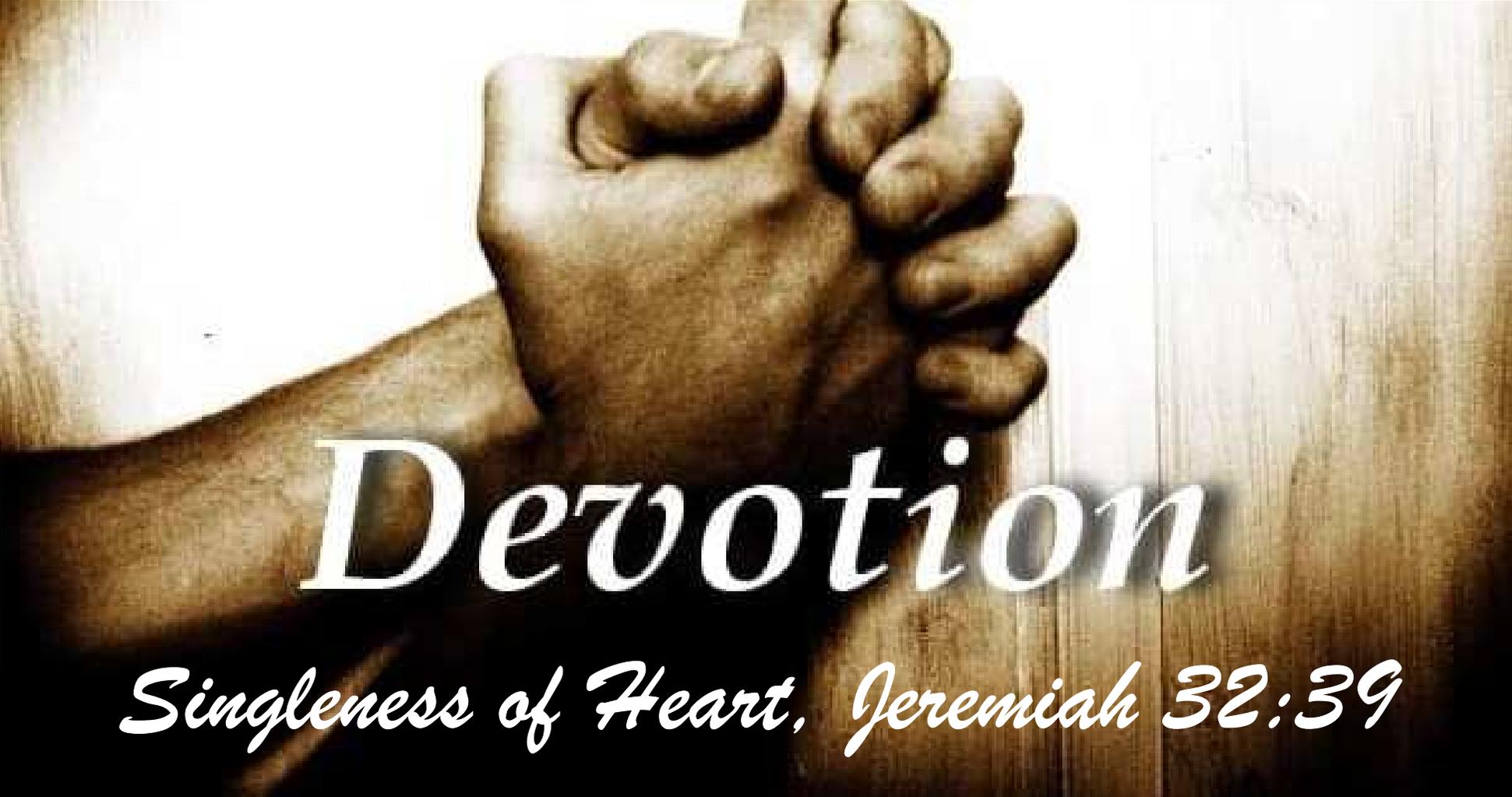
- We must understand, God is on our side, loving us with all His heart but He is still God Almighty
- We can fully trust Him because He always responds to us with what is best, even if we cannot see it

The foundation of singleness of heart and action is reverential admiration and respect of God

- **3rd John 2 AMP**, “Beloved, I pray that in every way you may succeed and prosper and be in good health [physically], just as [I know] your soul prospers [spiritually]”
 - Succeed and prosper is God’s will for you and He is in your weed patch working it with you

So, how is the foundation of your life?

- What are you passing on to those who follow you?
- What weed have you allowed back in or refuse to remove in your life?
- John Clare, “In such a beautiful wilderness of wildflowers we are amused with the very variety and novelty of the scene so much that we in our pleasure lose all sense of wariness or fatigue in the length of our wanderings and get to the end before we are aware of our journey.”



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