

enablement to fulfil Paul's imperative: "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:31-32).



Ask Jesus to help you replace any lingering hard-heartedness in your life with His tenderheartedness. And show Christlike compassion to someone today.

*Lord, take my life and make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender, Lord—in me abide. —Orr*

As long as vengeance seems sweet, there's bitterness in the heart.



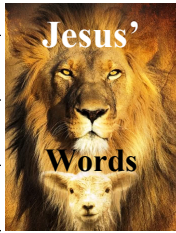
FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Needed: A Tender Heart

On December 12, 1938, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin signed 30 lists of death sentences. Yet on that very night the callous tyrant went to his personal theatre and watched two comedies. Stalin's biographer, Dmitri Volkogonov, wonders how any human being could have a heart so hardened that he could smile and laugh after commanding the killing of some 5,000 victims, many of whom he knew personally.

Down through the centuries, calculated cruelty, murderous revenge, and even ghastly torture have made history a long tale of tragedy. Even if you and I could not see ourselves signing the death warrants of innocent victims, we must still guard against hard-heartedness and pray for a spirit that is the very opposite of Stalin's depraved sadism. We must plead for divine





A Tender Heart

(Ezekiel 3:7) But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.

(Proverbs 24:30-34) I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; [31] And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. [32] When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: [33] A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; [34] So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.



In John 9 there are two contrasting attitudes described with two contrasting consequences:

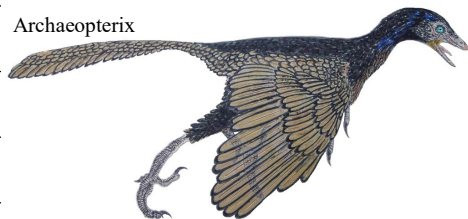
1. The _____ of a _____ heart, verses 1-34

There are 8 evidences of pharisaic state of heart:

- #1. Adherence to _____ rules, verses 15-16
- #2. Stubborn _____, verses 17-18
- #3. Fear of _____, verses 19-23
- #4. _____, verses 24-28
- #5. They were _____, verses 29-30
- #6. Ability to make _____, verses 31-34
- #7. _____, verse 34
- #8. They _____ the only One who could _____ them,

(John 3:19-20) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. [20] For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Archaeopteryx



(Ezekiel 36:24-28) For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. [25] Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. [26] I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to

walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. [28] Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

(Jeremiah 23:29) "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

2. The _____ of a _____ heart, verses 35-41

There are 8 contrasting evidences of the heart of the man born blind:

- #1. He could _____,
- #2. He easily _____,
- #3. He feared _____, verses 30-33
- #4. He changed to a _____,
- #5. He was open to the _____, verse 37
- #6. He was able to make astute _____, v33
- #7. He was _____, verse 36
- #8. He accepted Christ as Lord, worshipping Him, and was _____, verses 39-41

(John 3:17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

(Ezekiel 36:26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh



(Ephesians 4:31-32) Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. [32] And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

(1 Peter 3:8) Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;