

The Importance of “Right” Thinking

Matthew 9:4

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Matthew 9:4, “Why do you **entertain** evil thoughts in your hearts?”

(enthumeomai - en-thoo-meh'-om-ahee)

To ponder, to consider, to reflect, to think deeply

Matthew 9:1–8, Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” ³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “**Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?**” ⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’ ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”

⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they

praised God, who had given such authority to man.

Matthew 1:20, But after he had **considered** this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 9:4, Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you **entertain** evil thoughts in your hearts?”

Acts 10:19, While Peter was still **thinking** about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you.”

We often cannot control the thoughts that come to us, they come and go.

Matthew 5:27–28, You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

John 1:47–49, When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸ “How do you know me?”

Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, *"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."*⁴⁹

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

Sin is birthed in the heart before it is ever carried out.

Adam and Eve – Eve pondered what the serpent told her in her heart.

Genesis 3:6, When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Cain and Abel – Anger and Jealousy blinded Cain.

Genesis 4:3–8, In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.

⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

David and Bathsheba –

2 Samuel 11:2–3, One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

Judas – On one hand greed, on the other anger at Jesus

Matthew 26:14–16, Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests¹⁵ and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

So, what am I to do?

- 1. Ask Jesus to help you in this area. It takes humility to ask for help.**

2 Corinthians 10:5, *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

Proverbs 4:23, *Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.*

- 2. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote.**

The battle is for your heart and mind. Allow the grace of Jesus Christ to free you.

Philippians 4:4–8, *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will **guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

⁸*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”*

- 3. Take the attitude and heart of David.**

1 Samuel 13:14, *“But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’S command.”*

Psalms 139:23–24, *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Today is a great day for a fresh start!