



WEEK ONE

# UNDIVIDED

DEVOTIONALS

A SERIES ON LIVING WHOLE IN A BROKEN WORLD

## MONDAY

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We are embarking on a spiritual adventure to unearth what it truly means to live undivided. We begin with a focus on the heart. So often our hearts feel pulled in so many directions, with so many demands, and so many concerns. Is it even possible to live 'wholehearted'... undivided?!

Luke 12:13-15, in the VOICE translation, reads "A person in the crowd got Jesus' attention. "Teacher, intervene and tell my brother to share the family inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Since when am I your judge or arbitrator?" Then He used that opportunity to speak to the crowd. Jesus said, "You'd better be on your guard against any type of greed, for a person's life is not about having a lot of possessions."

You know what I love about this? Jesus saw what that person in the crowd really needed, not what they thought they needed, and immediately begins trying to show him the way to kingdom life in its fullness. He came looking for his inheritance to be sorted out but with just one look Jesus saw something within him and began to address the REAL need he had.

Makes me wonder... if you or I stumbled upon Jesus today what would we ask Him to do for us? Think about that, but then pause to consider what Jesus would see. Is 'that thing' really the core need Jesus would want to address for us?

Examine what you think you need most from Jesus today. Then look deeper. What heart issue might be down deep at the core? Man looks at the outside, but God, looks us right square in the heart! What does He see in your heart today?!



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## TUESDAY

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David prayed to God in Psalm 86:11. “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name.”

Mulling this prayer over and over, what I come to hear David saying is something like... God, help me to really see and believe that you are faithful. If I can learn to rely on your faithfulness, I will be able to trust you fully, and my heart will be undivided. That’s my desire Lord!

When you place some of your trust in your own abilities and then try to place some trust in God as well, you live divided. The result is a life where trusting God as Provider, Protector and Lord Over All is all twisted up in your own striving, working, grinding, pushing and straining. That load is heavy but it’s super easy to fall into. As the song says, “we are prone to wander... prone to give our hearts away.” It’s easy to say in our head we trust God, but in our living, act like we trust only ourselves.

Last week I faced a difficult situation and found myself quickly resorting to straining and stressing over it. Yes, it was a hard thing I was facing, no question. But God reminded me ever so gently, “Jodi, you are doing what I asked. I got you.” PHEW... relief. I began to feel peace.

Friends, it is easy to grab hold of the load, but how about we not!? Let’s rely on God’s faithfulness instead. Let’s let Him work in our lives and in our tough situations. He is faithful. I say it again... God is faithful!

Think of a time where you saw God come through for you and there was no need for you to worry, stress and strain? Remembering how God has been faithful and being reminded of His faithfulness helps us to trust Him.

Here is a link to the song we introduced Sunday with the message. It’s Psalm 86:11 in song! Enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/DnqlokstZcw>



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## WEDNESDAY

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If there was an amazing treasure you could obtain, would you pass it up? NO...of course not!

Isaiah 33:6 says, "He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure."

Did you catch it? The treasure is a sure foundation for right now. (Yes, please. I'll take it.) It is a rich salvation for eternity... living forever in heaven's perfection. (Yes. I'll take that too, please). It's wisdom and knowledge. (You know that won't go astray!)

This is treasure for the children of God and the key to unlock this treasure is to fear the Lord. Yesterday we looked at David's prayer for an undivided heart which included that he fear the Lord.

So, what does 'fear the Lord' mean to you? Does it mean you should be scared of God? Be intimidated by God? No! Of course not. To fear the Lord is to have a healthy awe, respect, reverence, submission, and TRUST in him. To fear the Lord is to have the right picture of the size of yourselves and your problems in contrast to the immeasurable size of God. If you can properly see the size of your problems and concerns in comparison to the size of God, then you can grow to trust Him with an undivided heart.

Ponder: What problem in your life today needs to be reviewed and resized as you hold it up before the greatness of God Almighty today?

Do you find the concept of 'fearing the Lord' difficult? What are the challenges you face to living out your life in 'fear of the Lord'?



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## THURSDAY

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In the VOICE translation, Luke 12 reads, “This is why I keep telling you not to worry about anything in life... Think about those crows flying over there: do they plant and harvest crops? Do they own silos or barns? Look at them fly. It looks like God is taking pretty good care of them, doesn’t it? Remember that you are more precious to God than birds! Think about those beautiful wild lilies growing over there. They don’t work up a sweat toiling for needs or wants—they don’t worry about clothing. Yet the great King Solomon never had an outfit that was half as glorious as theirs! If God takes such good care of such transient things, **how much more you can depend on God to care for you, weak in faith as you are.**”

Jesus is reminding His own disciples (not strangers) that God will care for them, even though their trust in Him is small! Makes me wonder...why is it so hard for believers to trust God’s got us? Why do we find it easier to worry, stress and strain?

Jesus ended that passage by reminding His followers, “Don’t reduce your life to the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_; don’t let your mind be filled with anxiety. People of the world who don’t know God pursue these things, but **you have a Father caring for you, a Father who knows all your needs.**”

Soak in God’s words of truth today from Luke 12.

I intentionally left that blank for each of you to pause and ponder what you need to place in that blank today. What are you pursuing and stressing over? Be reminded of the simple but powerful truth that God cares for you. He’s got you. He looks after the flowers, the birds, and certainly He will look after you. He knows this need you have on your heart today. He sees you. He’s a good, good, Father.

Jesus said it best... You can depend on God to care for you even if your faith is teeny tiny (my paraphrase). God cares!

Challenge: Be on watch today for someone who needs to be reminded of this simple truth: God cares for you. Be the voice to remind them.



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## FRIDAY

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Matt 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In Sunday's sermon, I talked about how your heart follows your treasure. What you spend time on, value, and invest your life in... like it or not...this is what you treasure. It will be what you value most, love most and trust most.

This is a critical thing to understand if you desire an undivided heart that trusts God alone.

Let's put your heart through a little 'treasure test'. This is not a conceptual exercise. You're not asked what you 'think' you value and treasure most. It's a practical examination of how you spend your resources, time, talents, and thinking to see what they indicate you truly treasure most.

**Resources** - Look at your bank account and finances. Examine your T4, which reflects your income, and look at your annual charitable giving. Look at any big purchases this past year or two. How do you spend your money? Listen to Holy Spirit.

**Time** - Look at your calendar. How much time is spent on work, family, free play, matters of your faith? How much of your

free time is spent on your own pleasures? On others? On things of God? How do you spend your time? Listen to Holy Spirit.

**Talents** - Look at your special gifts and abilities. How are you using them? How much are you investing in serving others vs. building up for yourself? Listen to Holy Spirit.

**Mind** - Look at your thinking. What are you spending time thinking about most often? What are you reading? What are you searching on the computer? How do you spend the assets of your mind? Listen to Holy Spirit.

Allow the Holy Spirit to challenge you to examine what you truly treasure and help you make any changes necessary to store your treasure in Christ. Your heart will follow your treasure. Put Jesus first in your resources, time, talents, and your thinking and you will be storing up treasure in heaven. A treasure that will last forever. A sure foundation now and in the life to come.

Is God been speaking to you about an undivided heart?