

HEART'S DESIRE TAKEAWAY

Key Point

The more you grasp the greatness of God's love, the more it becomes clear that He is your greatest need and desire.

- 1) According to Jeremiah 17:9, why is it necessary to conduct a thorough heart check at times? In your past, what is an example that proves your heart cannot be trusted?

- 2) What or who comes first in your life? This could even be yourself.

While human hearts are accustomed to knowing human love, God created you to be completed only by His love. The supernatural process of getting to know Jesus and His love for you happens over time.

- 3) Why is it so difficult to believe that spiritual love can meet your heart's every need?

- 4) Since you can't see God or touch Him, have you questioned whether spiritual love can meet your heart's desire for love?

Key Point:

Jesus came to break sin's curse over our hearts.

- 5) Have you come to conclude that your heart may still be operating under the curse? Is your deepest desire still for human love, no matter its form: husband, children, parents, friends, etc.?

- 6) "Your desire shall be for your husband" (Genesis 3:16). As women under the curse, most place the desire for romantic love over their love for God. Has this ever described you? Is that a battle you still fight?

- 7) Eve fell and took us all down with her because she believed she was missing out on something. Are there lies the serpent whispers to you suggesting that you are missing out?

Key Point

No matter the beauty of a healthy marriage (or relationship), it's still not enough to complete us.

- 8) How have fairy tales and rom-coms misshapen tender hearts, compelling young girls to seek romantic love? How does this follow women into relationships?

- 9) Did you grow up anticipating a happily-ever-after life? What did you imagine your life would look like?

- 10) Do you feel that without a certain person in your life, whether a spouse or close family member, you would be lost, or are you so confident in Jesus' love for you that you know He would carry you through? Share your heart check below.

Key Point

The clamor of the world, and even good things, will always compete with Jesus to be your heart's desire.

- 11) Like Jesus did with Mary in John 20, He has been and is now calling you by name. Can you recall a time or season when you knew Jesus was calling you by name?

- 12) The enemy knows your weaknesses. How can you guard your heart against his whispers that try to draw you away from your first love, Jesus?

- 13) How can knowing that He is the next-to-you Jesus, that He is real and ever present in you, protect you from those things that compete for your heart?

"Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

LOVE LETTER TAKEAWAY

Key Point

When you experience God's active love in your life, you are naturally drawn to His Love Letter.

- 1) When you first began walking with Jesus, did you feel naturally drawn to read the Word? Do you feel the draw now?

- 2) Read John 1:1. When you read the Word, who you are encountering? _____
When you read Scripture, you are getting to know Jesus, *the* Word.

- 3) Read Matthew 11:28-30. He is always saying, "Come to me," not just when life is hard. Are there only certain circumstances that drive you to the Word? Give examples.

Key Point

While the enemy's lies have misshapen our hearts and minds, we are transformed and renewed through the Word.

- 4) Read Romans 12:2. Why is it necessary for our minds to be renewed?

- 5) While the enemy has done all he can to keep you from the truth, God wants you to know who you are and Whose you are. Over time, who has the world (the enemy) convinced you that you are?

- 6) We act out of what we believe. If we are convinced that intimacy with Jesus isn't something we can attain, then we will never seek Him with our whole heart (Psalm 9:10). What heart attitudes and mindsets do you believe need to be transformed within you?

Key Point

We, like a mail-order bride, will someday come face-to-face with our Groom.

- 7) Do you know what Jesus sounds like and what it feels like to be with Him? Is His presence real to you? If so, what does it "feel" like?

- 8) What emotions or desires does the imagery of Jesus as your faraway Groom evoke? Does it stir your heart and inspire you to grow in intimacy with Him?

- 9) Have you ever gotten to really know someone better through written words, for example, old-school letters, cards, or texts? If so, what was special about those communications?

Key Point

Read. Study. Apply. Divine encounters will begin to happen as you watch with breathless anticipation.

- 10) Do you have a Wow! moment when a Bible passage unmistakably spoke directly to you?

- 11) What verse(s) have grabbed your attention over the years and are now special to you?

Key Point

Journaling and prayer are our responses to Jesus, our love letter back to Him.

- 12) Has maintaining a journal felt like just another checklist item to you? If yes, how can the idea of it being your love letter back to Him change your perception of what it can be?

- 13) In what ways can recording your praises and His goodness help you grow in your current walk of faith?

- 14) Through your journal or even notes written in your Bible, how might God use your Wow! moments now to Wow! you later on down the road?
