



EPISODE THREE

NEW HEART

Host:

The theme of Creation Fest On Air is “All things new”. Jesus came to make us a “NEW” person not a better person. Making us “better” implies that we are being compared to something already existing and so where is the standard set?

Question:

What happened to members of the group when they acknowledged Jesus as Lord of their life? What changed? How did they feel? What challenges have been faced since? Did they feel new?

Host:

Read Revelation 21:5. Ultimately everything will be made new including a new heaven and new earth – a return to Eden if you like. In the “Great Exchange” of Ezekiel 36:26-27 the prophet talks about a time when hearts of stone are turned to hearts of flesh and God’s people will receive a new heart and new spirit.

Question:

How does the prophet’s teaching here anticipate the New Testament revelation of the steps by which God transforms a sinner into a saint? Note particularly Romans 3,5,6 and 8.

Host:

Sarah quotes Dallas Willard who said “the revolution of Jesus is a continuous revolution of the human heart or spirit... it is a revolution of our character it changes us from the inside out through a personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another” (Dallas Willard “Renovation of the heart: putting on the character of Christ”)

Question:

How would you explain that to a non-Christian who may be concerned that the “enjoyable” part of their life will have to stop if they become a Christian; that they will now have to abide by lots of rules?

Host:

Children tend to thrive when boundaries are given to them, sports and games would be chaotic unless certain rules (boundaries) are in place. This seems counter intuitive when we would generally like to be free of rules.

Question:

Ezekiel writes of living within boundaries; what are the rules or boundaries for being a Christian? Have we a tendency to make up our own rules? What do we do if we step outside of the way that God desires of us? Are there ways back? Think about those Biblical characters who fell short yet God picked them up.

Host:

In John 3 we are given the account of Nicodemus who came to Jesus at night with questions.

Question:

What was right and what was lacking in Nicodemus' assessment of Jesus? How did Jesus' answer correct him?

Host:

We are all invited to have a new heart by being born again as God walks into our life. Sarah uses the analogy that swimming in the sea is very different to looking at the sea in a photo. It is something to be experienced to receive the full benefit.

Question:

What does it take to dive into God? What are the results of that in your life? How has God made "all things new" in your life and brought to life those things that were once dead? Can you describe how your heart has become one of stone to one of flesh?

Host:

Some people are frightened to make that commitment to invite Jesus to be their Lord and give them a new heart; but what is it that they have to lose – and what will they gain?