



BROAD STREET

BANNER

September 23, 2009

BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXIV NO. 38



From Where I Sit . . .

“The Heart Of A Mouse”

Many years ago I read a fable about a mouse who lived in the home of a magician. The mouse was in constant fear of cats. Taking pity on the mouse, the magician changed it into a cat, but immediately it developed a fear of dogs. Then the magician turned the mouse – cat into a dog, only to observe that it now feared lions. The magician mercifully turned the mouse – cat – dog into a lion, but in the form of a lion it trembled at the sight of hunters. In utter frustration the magician turned the mouse – cat – dog – lion back into a mouse because the poor creature only had the heart of a mouse.

It seems the magician learned what we all need to know. Even if we have the “magic” to change the outer form (like cosmetic surgery, weight loss and body building, plus a change in our wardrobe does) if the heart isn’t changed, one’s true nature still comes through. There was still a mouse’s heart in the lion.

The wise man, Solomon wrote these very same sentiments in the book of Proverbs:

Prov. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”

Prov. 4:23 “For out of the heart are the issues of life”

What should we learn from this? Perhaps that one cannot become a lion in the Kingdom of Heaven if he maintains the heart of a mouse! The fainthearted, fearful, doubtful, and unbelieving are spoken of in **Rev. 21:8**, “**But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone...**”

To become the kind of conqueror that Paul described in **Romans 8:35-37**, radical surgery must be performed, a form of heart transplant!! There are no magicians who can change us into what we ought to be. Only Christ can give us the heart of a lion!! He can equip us to be “**more than conquerors through Him that loved us.**” (**Rom. 8:37**).

According to **Romans 12:1-2**, a conqueror must have a “heart” change. Some professed Christians still have the sinners heart. Some, as in **Prov. 24:10** have little strength, and so they “**faint in the day of adversity.**” Contrast these with surgeons, writers, athletes, Christians who must endure discomfort without fainting. There is no room for “Faint-Hearted Christians.”

Many disguise themselves as “lion-hearted” but have only a mouse’s heart! They pretend to be what they’re not. They have a loud roar but no courage, nor intention, nor inclination to make a difference whether doctrinally or morally. Usually, those who do the least in the Kingdom make the loudest noise about what they don’t like— and how bad everyone else is! However, for those of us who have a heart changing surgery by Jesus Christ, **2 Cor 4:16** “. . . **though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**”

. . . . Terry Broome