

# A Heart That Devises Wicked Plans

## *Proverbs 6:18*

**Introduction:** We see from these words that it is deliberate, planned action that is under consideration and that such action is hated by God. It is one thing to sin in a moment of weakness, but it is another matter to plan and scheme to commit wickedness.

### **I. Examples Of Hearts Devising Wickedness.**

- A. In a general way (*Gen. 6:5*).
- B. Jezebel's plot for Ahab against Naboth (*1 Kgs. 21:1-16*).
- C. Evildoers of Israel (*Micah 2:1-3*).
- D. Jewish leaders and Judas (*Mk. 14:1-2, 10-11*).
  - 1. Jewish leaders "*sought how*" (v. 1).
  - 2. Judas "*sought how*" (v. 11).
  - 3. Both were mutual participants in having hearts intent on planning evil.

### **II. God Wants Hearts That Are Pure.**

- A. What the Bible generally refers to as "the heart" is actually the inner man.
  - 1. It is described as being "*deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*" (*Jer. 17:9*).
  - 2. From within the heart of man comes forth the things that defile (*Matt. 15:18-19*).
  - 3. The wickedness that can emanate from the heart is a serious matter.
- B. Yet Jesus says that the heart can be mastered and turned into a wellspring of good.
  - 1. Jesus says that there can be those who are pure of heart (*Matt. 5:8*).
  - 2. Instead of being a seat of wickedness, the heart can become a place where the peace of God holds rule (*Col. 3:15*).

### III. How Hearts Are Made Pure.

- A. There is a connection between the heart (and its subsequent actions) and the mind (*Prov. 23:7*).
  - 1. When the mind is captured, the heart will be also (*2 Cor. 10:5*).
  - 2. This is the beginning of having an obedient heart (*Acts 15:9*).
- B. The heart can be cleansed (*James 4:8*).
  - 1. The heart is purified through the word of God (*1 Peter 1:22-23*).
  - 2. This is because the word of God tells us what to do in order to be cleansed (*“But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted” Rom. 6:17, NIV*).
    - a. Believe (*Rom. 10:10*).
    - b. Repent (*Lk. 13:3*).
    - c. Confess (*Matt. 10:32*).
    - d. Be baptized (*Mk. 16:16*).
  - 3. All of these instructions are toward the goal of having sins (defilement of the heart) cleansed (*Acts 2:38; 22:16*).
- C. Once cleansed, one must strive to remain pure in heart (*1 Tim. 5:22*).
  - 1. Concentrate on pure things (*Phil. 4:8*).
  - 2. What if sin were to re-enter the heart?
    - a. Confess it to God (*1 Jn. 1:9*).
    - b. Repent and pray (*Acts 8:22*).

**Conclusion:** We are told that Moses *“endured as seeing Him who is invisible” (Heb. 11:27)*. We should be motivated to obey God out of the realization that it is the pure in heart who shall see God (*Matt. 5:8*).