The mind justifies what the hart have chosen

By Michelle Korff

BLS200 2024

Facilitator: Ruan Korff / Johan Mostert

Introduction:

[1]When we look at the saying “the mind justifies what the heart have chosen” it suggests that our thoughts and rationalization often align with our desires, rather than the truth. This experience is evident in various aspects of life, including relationships, decision making, and spiritual growth. From a biblical perspective this concept is particularly significant, as it highlights the intricate relationship between the heart and mind and spirit.

The heart in Biblical Context:

In scripture the heart is represents the core of a person’s being and emotions, desires and motivation ([2]Proverbs 4:23– Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.)

The heart is often described as the seat of affection, loyalty and commitment ([3] Matt 22:37-40 - 37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

However, the heart can also be deceitful and prone to sin ([4] Jeremiah 17:9 –

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.)

[1] Go Business 100 lesson 18 by Dennis Peacocke
[2] Proverbs 4:23
[3] Matthew 22:37-40
[4] Jeremiah 17:9

The Mind's Role in Justification:

The mind plays a crucial role in justifying the heart's desires. Though rationalization, we can convince ourselves that our action and choices align with our values and principles even when they don't ([5]Romans 1:21-22 - [21] For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools)

This self-deception can lead to a distorted perception of reality, causing us to justify sinful behaviours or harmful decisions.

Biblical Examples:

Several biblical figures demonstrate the mind tendency to justify the hearts desires:

1. David and Bathsheba: David desire for Batsheba led him to rationalize his action, despite knowing they were wrong ([6]2 Samuel 11: 1-27) One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, [3] and David sent someone to find

[5] Romans 1:21-22
[6] 2 Samuel 11:1-27

out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” [4] Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she

went back home. [5] The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

2. Adam and Eve: The first humans justified their disobedience by blaming external factors, rather than acknowledging their own desires ([7]Genesis 3:1-13 - [2] The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, [3] but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’
3. King Saul: Saul Jealousy and insecurity drove him to justify his action against David, despite God’s clear favor toward David ([8] 1Samuel 18:6-11 - [8] Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” [9] And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.)

<u>Consequences of Justifying sin:</u>

[7] Genisis 3: 1-13
[8] 1 Samuel 18:6-11

Justifying sin trough metal rationalization can have severe consequences

1. Spiritual blindness – We become off balance to hear God's voice and guidance

2. Relationship damage – Justifying sin can harm relationships with others and with God.
3. Internal conflict and guilt come from rationalizing sin.

<u>Biblical words of renewing:</u>

1. Renewal of the mind we must transform our thinking trough scripture and prayer ([9]Romans 12:2)
2. Self-Reflection – Regularly examine your heart and motives ([10]2 Corinthians 13:5)
3. Accountability – Surround yourself with people who speak truth and encourage righteousness ([11]Proverbs 27:17)
4. Submission to God – Acknowledging His sovereignty and wisdom ([12]James 4:7-10)
5. God's strength – Acknowledge your inability to overcome sin without God's Help ([13]Phillipians 4:13)

[9] Romans 12:2
[10] 2 Corinthians 13:5
[11] Proverbs 27:17
[12] James 4:7-10
[13] Phillipians 4:13

6. Live according to God's truth, even when it contradicts your desires ([14]2 Corinthians 5:7)

Conclusion:

As per my conclusion I am not just hear to share with you the concept of how the mind justify what the heart want, I have shown you how it is so part of all of us since the beginning of time. This is part of us in everyday life , two of the most loved and wised people in the bible David and Saul also went trough justifying what the heart wanted even if it went against what God wanted, but God stilled loved them and they change their habits too change their hearts to what God wanted for them and not what they wanted to justify that it is what was meant for them. I can not think how many time I have done this to justify what my heart wanted, but by realizing that I am in charge of my heart and God is the most important part of me, so I choose Him. ([15]I am setting my heart in to heavens direction " inclining my heart ") [16]Ps 119:112 – I have inclined my heart to proform Your statutes forever, even to the end.

We must seek to align our thoughts and actions with God's truth; by renewing our minds every day do self- reflection and seek accountability people as mentioned above.

[14] 2 Corinthians 5:7
[15] Pastor Steven Furtick
[16] Ps 119:112

Justify what the heart want is what we do every day but once we realize what we are doing and bring it to the open so that we are sure to justify our hearts to God’s will.

Biblography

1. The Holy Bible (New International Version)
2. Go Business by Dennis Peacock
3. Biblegateway.com
4. Paster Steven Furtick

pg.