



ChristmasTIME for your HEART: December 4-5

CROOKED TIE

Each morning as I get ready for work, I spend some time trying to get ready. The most important part is making sure my bowtie is straight and tied just right. However, as I walk throughout my day I will have someone point out that my tie is crooked. During the day my tie got all messed up. Most of the time, people will even try to fix it for me because they don't want me to look like a fool.

Read Mark 1:4-8.

Our heart is in much worse shape than just being crooked. Our heart is broken beyond repair. It is a total mess. God's Word helps us look at our heart. As John proclaimed in the Gospel text, we are reminded of our need to confess those things in our lives for the forgiveness of sins. This holiday season it is important for us as God's people to look closely at our heart. It is important to know we have many imperfections, most much worse than a crooked tie. We have a Savior who came near to us to fix those imperfections, to fix our broken crooked heart. Jesus comes near to us to help correct that "imperfect tie". He straightens us and makes us new.

Family Questions:

How can we make confession a bigger part of our family life?

How can God make our Heart new?



ChristmasTIME for your HEART: December 7-8

RECEIVING GIFTS

I am not great at receiving gifts. I don't give the right facial expressions and often my words to others don't seem to convey my appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the present. Receiving gifts is hard. I would much rather collect a reward for actually doing something. I can be much more excited when I have achieved something and get my just reward.

Read Ezekiel 36:24-27.

As we read this text and think about our heart, we are reminded that our heart is broken. It is made of stone. When we look at ourselves, we understand that our heart doesn't always go out to others; we don't want to serve our spouse, children, friends and neighbors. We are focused on ourselves. Our text today reminds us that we do nothing for this new heart for people. We do nothing but receive the gift of new life, new heart, and new spirit. As you think about your actions today, remember that it is Jesus who gives us this new heart. We don't do anything to earn it. It is truly a gift - a gift that is meant to be shared.

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