Lesson Five – Prepared Hearts

*“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach*

*statutes and ordinances in Israel.” Ezra 7:10*

Ezra is probably the best example in the Bible of a man who prepared his heart to study the Law of the Lord. He not only prepared his heart, but he set out to seek, do and teach the statutes of the Lord in Israel. What higher compliment can be given to a man or woman than to say, “they sought, did and taught the law of the Lord.”

***Wisdom From the Past…***

***“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”***

 ***Abraham Lincoln***

1. **Heaven— “A prepared place for prepared people.”**
2. “I go to prepare a place for you.” John 14:1-4
3. “He has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:16
4. “…Come…inherit the kingdom prepared for you.” Ma 25:34
5. Neither eye, ear, nor heart knows the things prepared for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9
6. **Preparation—An important necessity in life.**

Readiness, to make ready, being prepared, the idea of deliberate effort, the idea of setting one’s mind to do something, knowing in advance what one will do.

**Question: Describe the following “*preparations*” found in scripture.**

1. Jesus said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 24:44
2. The Apostle Paul said\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 6:15
3. The book of Esther describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Esther 2:8-13
4. Peter said always be ready to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Peter 3:15
5. All Christian’s everywhere are to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Colossians 3:1-4
6. **Bible examples of those who had prepared their hearts.**
7. Ezra “prepared (set) his heart” to seek the Law of the LORD…” Ezra 7:10
8. Jotham. “…prepared his ways before the LORD his God.” 2 Chronicles 27:1-6
9. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself. Daniel 1:8, Daniel 10:4-12
10. Jehoshaphat. “…prepared his heart to seek God.” 2 Chronicles 19:1-4
11. The righteous heroes of faith. Hebrews Chapter 11

**Question: Although Jehoshaphat prepared his heart to seek God, why was the wrath of the Lord upon him?**

1. **Staying prepared in our daily Christian living.**

 ***The devil is more than eager to test how well prepared our hearts really are.***

 ***Gary Henry***

1. Setting the heart and soul to seek first the Lord our God. Matthew 6:33, 1 Chron 22:17-19
2. Setting the mind on the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5-8
3. Living soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. Titus 2:11-15
4. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices to the Lord. Romans 12:1
5. Fearing God and keeping His commandments. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
6. Being diligent to present ourselves approved to God. 2 Timothy 2:15
7. **Having Hearts Prepared for worship.**
8. Eagerness to worship. Psalm 42:1-4, Psalm 84:1-4, Psalm 95, Psalm 122:1
9. Humility in our worship. James 4:6-10, 2 Chronicles 20:18-20
10. Worshipping in spirit and in truth. John 4:19-24
11. Having reverence and godly fear for the Lord. Psalm 89:7, Hebrews 12:28-29
12. Being focused on what we are doing. Luke 4:16-22
13. **Hearts prepared to meet the lord.**
14. Making advance preparations. Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 12:35-48
15. Being alert. Mark 13:33-37, Matthew 24:42-51, Romans 13:11-14, Revelation 16:15
16. Being prayerful. Matthew 26:40-46, Mark 13:33-37, 1 Peter 4:7