



Main Idea: God cares more about who you are than what people see.

Scriptures: Ephesians 3:17; 1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 23:25

Today we're kicking off a brand-new series called **The Throne of My Heart**. Have you ever heard someone say that when you trust Jesus and start a relationship with Him, He comes and lives in your heart; that He makes His home in you? That's not just a nice idea. That's actually what Scripture teaches. Check this out:

17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. (Ephesians 3:17, NLT)

So, the moment you trust Jesus with your life, He takes up residence in your heart. He doesn't just visit. He doesn't just stop by occasionally. He moves in. And that sounds amazing, but it also raises an important question: **if Jesus lives in your heart, does He actually have control of it?** Because here's what's true about each of us: **every heart has a throne, and every throne has a king.**

There is a ruling place in your life; the place where decisions are made, where priorities are set, where direction is determined. Whether you realize it or not, something or someone is always seated in the ruling place of your heart. It might be and should be Jesus, but if we're honest, it's often something or someone else. It could be yourself. It could be approval, popularity, friends, a relationship, success, money, or something you own. It might even be church.

But here's the thing: **the throne of your heart was never meant to be empty, and it was never meant to be shared.** God designed your life to revolve around the Lordship of Jesus. Jesus doesn't want to be a guest in your heart. He wants to be King of your heart. And not just on Sundays, but every day, in every moment, in every decision. So, the question for this series isn't, *"Is Jesus part of my life?"* The real question is, *"Is Jesus reigning as King at the very center of my life?"*

Who's really ruling your heart right now? Is Jesus on the throne? Or has something else taken His place? What idols have slowly crept in and

claimed a seat that belongs only to Him? Has your heart become so crowded that there's no room left for the King?

Did you know within your heart there are different chambers? There are four hollow spaces inside your heart. The upper chambers are called the right and left atrium, and the lower chambers are called the right and left ventricles. Each one plays a role in keeping you alive; moving blood, carrying oxygen, sustaining your whole body. All the chambers work together, but if one isn't functioning right, it affects everything.

In the same way, your spiritual heart has different "rooms." Different areas of your life. Different spaces where things can take control. And over the next four weeks, we're going to walk through those rooms and ask one simple but powerful question: **"Is Jesus King of this room?"** Because Jesus doesn't want just part of your heart...He wants all of it.

Point #1: The first room we're talking about is your "living room."

Let me ask you something: When people are coming over to your house, what's the first room that gets cleaned? It's the living room. It's the room you vacuum. It's the room you straighten up. It's the room where you fluff the pillows, hide the mess, and make everything look put together. Why? Because that's the room people are going to see. It's where your guests sit. It's where conversations happen. It's the space you present to others.

No one walks into your house and immediately says, *"Hey, can I go check your bedroom?"* No one opens closets or digs through your laundry room. They see the living room, and they assume the rest of the house looks the same. Even if it doesn't. And let's be honest, some of you, when people come over, you don't clean your whole house. You just move the mess somewhere else, shut a door, and hope nobody opens it. Out of sight, out of mind.

We do the exact same thing with our lives. **Your "living room" is your public life.** It's the version of you who everyone else sees. It's who you are at school, on your team, at church, and who you present on social media. This is the clean version of you. This is the version where you say the right things. You act like you've got it together. You post the best angles, the best moments, the best highlights. You make sure people see what you want them to see.

Let's be real for a second. Do you care what people think about you? Of course you do. You care how you look. You care how people perceive you. You care if people think you're funny, attractive, cool, liked, included. You want the right clothes, the right look, the right vibe, the right reputation. Why? Because your living room matters to you. But here's where this gets real:

Point #2: God doesn't really care about what's on the outside. He cares about your heart.

There's a story in 1 Samuel about a kid named David. God was choosing a new king for Israel, so He sent the prophet Samuel to a man named Jesse and said, *"One of your sons is going to be king."* So, Jesse brought out his sons, one by one. And you can almost feel what was happening in the moment. Samuel saw the first son and thinks, *"This has to be the guy. He looks strong. He looks like a leader."* But God said no. Another son, another no. Then, another no. Seven sons went by Samuel, and God rejected every single one.

Finally, Samuel asked, *"Are these all your sons?"* And Jesse basically said, *"Well, there is one more. The youngest. But he's out in the field watching sheep."* In other words: *"He's not important. He doesn't look the part. He's not king material."* But that's exactly who God chose. Because God didn't look at what everyone else was looking at. People look at the outside. God looks at the heart.

⁷ "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV)

And if we're honest, we are obsessed with the outside. We spend so much time trying to look right, sound right, fit in, impress people, and manage how others see us. We adjust how we act based on who we're around. We filter what we say. We present the best version of ourselves. We work hard on our living room. But God isn't focused on your image. He's focused on your heart, what's really going on beneath the surface, who you are when no one's watching. He looks at what you love, what you chase, and what you prioritize. Those are the things God cares about.

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