A New Heart

**Scene 1 – At church**

*Several children are gathered talking*

Alex: Man, our service Sunday was *awesome*! Pastor Boskos really helped me understand how important having a relationship with Jesus is!

Bobby: I know what you mean. He really got me thinking!

Charlie: You were thinking? That has to be one of the greatest sermons ever written!

Alex: True. If he got Bobby thinking, he accomplished something!

Domingo: I really liked the part when he talked about our need for a new heart. I didn’t catch on at first, because my heart works just fine.

Charlie: So does mine. But he really helped me understand that God wants to give us a heart that wants the same things He wants.

Alex: But that is so hard! It is just like Paul said in Romans, that he didn’t understand why he kept doing the things that he knew didn’t make God happy.

Domingo: But so many people think they can make God happy by what they do, or don’t do.

Alex: Pastor Boskos helped us understand that we need to have a personal relationship with Jesus and to let Him give us the heart He wants us to have.

Domingo: David asked God to create in him a new heart after he had sinned. That is what makes it so hard. It seems like we have the old heart and the new heart.

Bobby: Uh, guys; I don’t think I know what you mean.

Charlie: I am not real clear on that either. Maybe we ought to ask Pastor Palmer when he comes in.

Pastor Palmer: Ask me what, Charlie?

Domingo: Pastor Palmer, I am not sure we really understand what Pastor Boskos was talking about Sunday when he said that God wants to give us a new heart.

Pastor Palmer: That is a great question. We are all born with a physical heart that pumps blood through our body. Without our heart, we would die. The Bible uses the word “heart” to talk about our nature; that is, what we want to do more than anything else. Before Jesus is our savior, all we want to do is sin. We don’t really care what God wants. But, when Jesus is our savior, then our heart is changed. It is almost like God gives us a heart transplant.

Alex: But, how do we do that? I know Pastor Boskos talked about it in his sermon, but it sounded so simple in his sermon, but so hard for us to do when we get out of church.

Pastor Palmer: Well, a big part of getting a new heart is doing what we are doing right now, meeting together at church to learn what God wants in our lives and how He would help us to do what we want.

Bobby: Wait, you mean that God doesn’t just tell us what He wants and then expects us to do it on our own? Are you saying that God will help us live the way He wants us to?

*Pastor Boskos comes in as they are talking*

Pastor Palmer: That is right, Bobby. Pastor Boskos, we were just speaking about your sermon and how you told us that God wants to give us a new heart.

Pastor Boskos: Boys, I am so glad you are thinking about what God wants to do in our lives. In **Ezekiel 36:26** and following God says: *“here’s what I’m going to do: . . . I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I’ll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed. I’ll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands. . . . You’ll be my people! I’ll be your God!”* and in **Ezekiel 11:19:20** God says *“I will give them an undivided heart and will put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. . . . They will be my people, and I will be their God.”*

 So, what God wants to do in our lives is to make us His people. But the only way He can do that is to make us different than the way we were born.

 Apart from receiving a new heart, what do we have? Our old heart, our sin nature, that will keep us enslaved to sin and self. Jesus talked about how to deal with sin in **Matthew 5**. What He said seems awful extreme to us. We can tear out our eyes, we can cut off our hands, but what are we still left with? A sinful, depraved heart. We can even remove ourselves from external temptations such as what the monks did, but how does that remove the sinful heart within us and the bad things that flow from it? What hope do we have? How can we truly enjoy the fellowship Jesus purchased for us on the cross if we continue to be bound to sin and continue to sin over and over again and offend the one who shed His blood for us? What good is forgiveness of sin without having a new heart and a new spirit imparted to us so we might no longer be bound to sin but be free to present ourselves to God and bear fruit to holiness?

Charlie: Pastor Boskos, how do we get this new heart?

Bobby: Yeah, does God do some kind of surgery on us?

Alex: I heard that a man in our church had to get a new heart a couple of months ago. He got a transplant because there was something wrong with his old heart. Is that what has to happen to us?

Pastor Palmer: In a way it is. God doesn’t take us into an operating room like when a doctor does a transplant, but He does work in our life to change our heart from the old, sin-sick heart into a heart that longs to be like Him.

Domingo: Is that what happens when we get saved?

Pastor Palmer: Exactly. You remember in **Romans 10:9-10** it says *“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”*

 So, what God is saying is that He fills our heart with someone new to believe in. Before Jesus comes into our life, we believe only in our self. But when we are saved, we now believe that Jesus is alive and making a difference in our lives.

Charlie: Then, if we have a new heart, why is it *so* hard for us to do what God wants us to do?

Pastor Boskos: That is a great question. You know, when a person has a heart transplant, it is not just as simple as taking the old heart out and putting the new heart in. Our body doesn’t like that and so it tries very hard to reject the new heart. The doctors have to work very hard to enable our new heart to do what it is supposed to do.

 In the same way, when we are saved, our old self wants very hard to remain in control. We don’t like having a new heart and so we try very hard to reject it. A transplant patient has to take medicine for the rest of their life. The Christian has to make sure they stay in touch with God every day through praying and reading His Word to condition our new heart to work the way God wants it to.

Bobby: I think I understand better now. Didn’t we study a verse in Royal Ambassadors that talks about that?

Alex: I remember that verse! It is in **2 Corinthians 5:17:** *“anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”*

Charlie: I understand now. A new life has *begun*, it is not finished yet!

Pastor Palmer: That’s right, Charlie. Just like your life began when you were born, there were a lot of things you couldn’t do then that you can do now. And as you get older, you will continue to grow and learn new things.

 Our new life in Jesus has begun. We just have to *want* to walk with Him more than anything else in the world.

Domingo: So then, God gives us a new heart and a new life?

Pastor Boskos: That’s right, Domingo. Many of you have acknowledged Jesus as your Savior and now have a new heart. We are so proud of you!

Alex: Uh, Pastor Boskos; could I ask a question?

Pastor Boskos: Of course, Alex.

Alex: We talked about the man in our church who had a heart transplant. How is he doing?

Pastor Boskos: I am glad you asked. He came through the surgery fine. But as with all transplant patients, he continues to have some problems. His medical bills are higher than anything we can imagine. Right now, he and his family are having to live near the hospital so they can continue therapy and be close in case something happens.

Bobby: Is there anything they need?

Pastor Palmer: Great question, Bobby. Right now, they really need our prayers. But they need money right now too. The drugs he has to take are very expensive and costs more than they make in a month. They also have living expenses, not to mention the hospital and doctor’s bills.

Charlie: So, we can help them by giving money?

Bobby: What about this benefit we are having for them today? That would be a *great* way to raise money for them!

Pastor Boskos: That is an *excellent* idea, Bobby!

 *Pastor Boskos turns toward the audience and addresses them directly*

 Thank you all so much for being here today! We hope you will give generously to help this family through this very difficult time. There are a lot of things for you to do and we hope you have a great day!

 If any of *you* need to have a new heart like we were talking about today, please feel free to talk to anyone wearing a worker lanyard or badge. We hope that your heart has been transplanted and that you are enjoying a new life with Him.

Setting/Characters/Props

**Setting**

Modern times

Two scenes

**Characters 6 Speaking Parts**

Alex:

Bobby:

Charlie:

Domingo:

Pastor Palmer:

Pastor Boskos:

**Props**

None needed