



A Beautiful Mind

You may recognize the title of this article as also being an academy award winning film about the life of Nobel Laureate in Economics winner John Nash (played by Russell Crowe). He was a wizard at mathematics, but his personal life was chaos. The film focused on his paranoid schizophrenia and how he worked to eventually overcome his delusions. The film told a heartwarming fictional story based loosely on his life. But the truth of his life was not as heartwarming as the film portrayed (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Beautiful_Mind_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Beautiful_Mind_(film))).

The word “heart” is often used in the Bible to describe a person’s mind. Proverbs 23:7a says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Jesus asked, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?” (Matthew 9:4b). From these and other passages it is deduced that the word “heart” is sometimes used figuratively to represent the thinking part of man—the mind.

The heart is also described as being deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). It is said of the wicked man, “Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord” (Proverbs 6:14). In Genesis 6:5 it was written about mankind, “. . .that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” That is a sad commentary on the hearts of men. It is certainly not beautiful in the eyes of God.

On the other hand, there are those who had a beautiful heart [mind] in the eyes of God. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, He said, “Behold, and Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” (John 1:47.) David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Mary, the mother of Jesus, is another example of a person who had a beautiful mind, for she found favor with God (Luke 1:28, 30).

The ultimate example of a beautiful mind is found Jesus Christ. Peter wrote of Him, “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). Paul said of Jesus, that He, “knew no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

What are some of the characteristics that make up “a beautiful mind”?

In Nathaniel we find that he had a heart in which there was no deceit. He did not use trickery or subtlety. He was a man of honesty and integrity.

In David we find a man who was willing to love God and follow His words. When you read the Psalms you can’t help but recognize the awe and respect David had for God and for His word. In Psalm 51 you also see David’s willingness to openly repent when he failed to do God’s will.

Words are inadequate to describe the beauty of Jesus. Although He was not comely or beautiful to look upon (Isaiah 53:2), He was fairer than any work that any artist has ever created. Jesus said of Himself that He was “gentle and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29). Jesus was obedient from His heart (John 8:29). Jesus served His Father with gladness and love (John 14:31). Even when faced with death for work His Father had given Him to do, He pressed forward because His heart was wholly given to His Father (Matthew 26:50-52).

In like manner, the First Commandment teaches everyone, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” A beautiful mind begins here. When God looks at you, does He see a beautiful mind?