

'Sheath your sword, boycott your butter knife':

Heart for Humanity

Heart:

- Heart as bodily organ
- Heart as metaphor

Heart as personal attribute

- 'Alice has a *good heart* – a person who is kind and generous
- 'Peter is unpredictable, but his *heart is in the right place* – a person who is basically good even if he or she has flaws
- George and Mary *have no heart* – a person with no feelings for others

Heart as experience

- The student experience a *change of heart* – to learn or do something new
- We did not *have the heart* to tell her – not able to tell someone bad news
- Anna *opened her heart* to her friends – to confess or speak honestly
- John has a *broken heart* – a person who is hurt by losing someone he or she loves

Importance of heart

- John 16:33 – do not lose heart – do not get discouraged
- Luke 24:32 – to take heart – to be encouraged
- Joshua 24:14 – to set one's heart – to determine to do what is right and good

To have heart for humanity

- Sheath your sword
 - Sword is symbol of war or trouble making
 - Matthew 26:52 'Put your sword back in its place because all who take up a sword will perish by the sword'
 - Matthew 5:9 'Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called children of God'
- Boycott your butter knife
 - Butter knife is symbol of flattery or winning favour with those above
 - 'Butter up' – to seek to please the bosses – 'Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven' (Matthew 7:21)
 - 'Butter up' – to seek to flatter yourself – 'Be careful not to practise your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven' (Matthew 6:1)
- Matthew 25:41-46 – only those who serve the unserved will be approved by God

Do you really have a heart for humanity?

- 'Sheath your sword' – live to bring peace
- 'Boycott your butter knife' – live to serve the unserved

With every ending there is a new beginning

'For last year's words belong to last year's language.

And next year's word await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning.' (T S Eliot in 'Little Gidding')

So, from now on, what?

(Marc Chernoff, '9 Rules for Turning Endings into New Beginnings' – 4 to remember)

1. Let go of the things you can't control and embrace new reality – Joshua 1:2 'Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites'
2. Hold tight to the good things – Joshua 1:7 'Above all, be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you will have success wherever you go'
3. Take chances and keep climbing – Joshua 1:9 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'
4. Appreciate what you have learnt but realise every step is necessary – Joshua 1:3 I have given you every place where the soles of your feet tread'

Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end