**Proverbs 15:8-12**

**The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.**

**The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.**

**Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.**

**Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?**

**A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.**

Sound familiar? Maybe you recognize the sentiments from these verses: “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 5:22. Or how about: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:17. Or, scariest of all: “Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.” Jeremiah 14:10-12. The Bible is clear… God isn’t interested in outward form, loud protestations, or even elaborate sacrifices. He cares about the condition of our inner self. He wants to replace hearts of stone with soft, gentle hearts of flesh. God intends for His people to be truly, deeply, forever changed in the way that they think and act by His “correction.” Imitation Christianity is sadly common, but it isn’t sufficient. We can fool others, we can even fool ourselves, but God knows better. Apparent changes won’t do the trick, only true conversion.

[](https://penguingeek.wordpress.com/files/2007/01/adelie-penguin-q.jpg)**Adelie Penguins**

[](https://66.media.tumblr.com/7a8516458297f820ecbb8a896ce82996/tumblr_ml35thgXJ31s4heyno1_500.jpg)Adelie penguins are enthusiastic and determined birds, between 18 and 28 inches tall. They are brash and intensely curious. This is perhaps best demonstrated with a story from an early Antarctic explorer, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, a survivor of Robert Falcon Scott’s ill-fated British Antarctic Expedition of 1910: “One day a [dog] team was tethered by the side of the ship, and a penguin sighted them and hurried from afar off. The dogs became frantic with excitement as he neared them: he supposed it was a greeting, and the louder they barked and the more they strained at their ropes, the faster he bustled to meet them. He was extremely angry with a man who went and saved him from a very sudden end, clinging to his trousers with his beak, and furiously beating his shins with his flippers.… It was not an uncommon sight to see a little Adélie penguin standing within a few inches of the nose of a dog which was almost frantic with desire and passion.” These are penguins with personality. In the Antarctic spring (October), Adelie penguins come together to nest on bare rocky patches of tundra. Their nests, consisting of piles of small pebbles, are built by the males in anticipation of the females’ arrival. Males with substantial nests (lots of pebbles) are most attractive to the females. The idea is that the most determined and energetic males will collect the most stones and thus probably be the best providers. The only trouble with this premise is that some of the males have taken up thievery. These penguins are prone to stealing pebbles from their neighbors’ nests. Rather than collect their own stones, they simply steal them from the most energetic collectors. It’s a good strategy for building the biggest pebble-pile, which fools the females into thinking that the thief is a good provider. We humans are inclined to attempt a similar strategy. We build an often somewhat misleading “good deed” pile, regardless of the actual condition of our hearts. Then we hope God accepts this appearance of piety. But while such a penguin-esque strategy might work for people, God is not so easily fooled. The only successful strategy is to heed His correction and develop a “broken and a contrite heart” which He can accept.

Netflix

Frozen Planet: The Epic Journey

Start: 3:47 (48:21 from End)

End: 7:05 (45:03 from End)