

The Heart Discovered

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So last week Marc lead us through Heb. 3:4-6.</p> <p>— We looked at Moses and Jesus once again.</p> <p>— — We saw the similarity between Moses and Jesus but we looked at the differences again.</p> <p>— — — We looked at how Moses brought the law and the law brought us to the house of God.</p> <p>— — — — But Jesus is the builder of the house of God, He is the door which we enter through.</p> <p>— — — — — Moses was a servant in the house of God but Jesus is the Son who builds, finishes, serves, and so much more.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we start a mini series on the heart.</p> <p>— We talk about the heart all the time especially in the Bible but what is the biblical definition of the heart?</p> <p>— — We need to see what the heart is capable of and how Jesus can effect our hearts.</p> <p>— — — Then next week we will look into the hardening of the heart; how it happens and what we need to do to prevent it; and come back from a hardened heart.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
Hebrews 3:7–9 (NASB95): 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”	<p>This is a quote from Psalm 95; so once again the author inspired by God is pointing us to an Old Testament passage.</p> <p>— Psalm 95 is a call to worship God: <u>READ: Psalm 95:1–2 (NASB95): 1 O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.</u></p> <p>— — The call to worship God was a call back to God and a reminder that Israel had abandoned God in the past: <u>READ: Psalm 95:9–11 (NASB95): 9 “When your fathers tested Me, They tried Me, though they had seen My work. 10 “For forty years I loathed that generation, And said they are a people who err in their heart, And they do not know My ways. 11 “Therefore I swore in My anger, Truly they shall not enter into My rest.”</u></p> <p>— — — So the Psalmist reminds his readers to not harden their heart like they have done in the past but to worship God.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Psalm 95:8 (NASB95): 8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Massah was the place that the Israelites rebelled against God: READ: Exodus 17:2–3 (NASB95): 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” 5 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”</p>

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Hebrews 3:7–9 (NASB95): 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”	<p>So, the question that has to be asked, why is this written in Hebrews here?</p> <p>— Well, if we look at our passage it says, “today.” This applies to us today as it applied to Israel when it was written and it applies to the early church when the book of Hebrews was written.</p> <p>— — God’s word is living and active: <u>READ: Hebrews 4:12 (NASB95): 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</u></p> <p>— — — What the Spirit is saying to the church here by quoting Ps. 95 is: don’t be like the Israelites that hardened their hearts while God was working for them.</p> <p>— — — — God has done great things and has spoken and guided all of us and so here in Hebrews we are told not to harden out hearts.</p> <p>— — — — — Because God knows something about humanity, He knows about Christians, and He knows about you and me.</p> <p>— — — — — God knows that there are so many avenues for attention and minds to chase; especially with all our technologies.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Before we can go on any further, we need to look at what the heart is.</p> <p>— Our passage tells us to not harden our hearts but what does that mean? How can we do that if we don't know what the Bible is describing by using the word heart.</p> <p>— — Now modern science tells us the heart is the big muscle in the middle of your chest that pumps blood.</p> <p>— — — All the romantic movies that my wife makes me watch tells me that the heart is where the emotions and desire are from.</p> <p>— — — — But what is the biblical definition of the heart?</p> <p>— — — — — The Bible defines the heart as: the source of a person's psychological life. The inner self, the place where thoughts comes from, the mind, the place choices are made, your intellect, and will.</p> <p>— — — — — — READ: 1 Peter 3:3–4 (NASB95): 3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.</p>

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Scripture:	
	<p>In the fall, our hearts have been affected by our sinful nature. This is why we as humans desperately need Jesus in our lives because we have broken, sick, stone hearts.</p> <p>—What God created it to do is still there, but there is also a sickness in our hearts.</p> <p>— —Our hearts reflect who we are: READ: Proverbs 27:19 (NASB95): 19 As in water face reflects face, So the heart of man reflects man.</p> <p>— — —Our heart is where we place the things that we treasure: READ: Matthew 6:20–21 (NASB95): 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</p> <p>— — — —It is what God looks at when He judges us: READ: Psalm 44:21 (NASB95): 21 Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.</p> <p>— — — — —Jesus tells of the fallen nature of the human heart that causes us to be unclean: READ: Mark 7:21–23 (NASB95): 21 “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 “All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”</p>

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<p>Hebrews 3:7–9 (NASB95): 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”</p>	<p>What we need to understand and what we need to embrace is that Jesus is the only one that fixes hearts.</p> <p>—Our hearts need to be changed and different and Jesus is the only one that can make the heart different.</p> <p>— — READ: Ezekiel 36:26 (NASB95): 26 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.</p> <p>— — READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB95): 17</p> <p>Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.</p> <p>— — —A heart turned toward Jesus will be different from the world. Its desires will be different, its motives will be different, and its ways will be different.</p> <p>— — — —A heart that is made new by Christ is pure; and the pure will see God: READ: Matthew 5:8 (NASB95): 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</p>
	<p>So what is our take away? What is our practical application?</p> <p>—First, we need to be aware of our hearts. What is the state of your heart?</p> <p>— —My hope this coming week is that you take time to really examine your heart to see where you are. Are you living with a sick hard heart or are you living with a new heart?</p> <p>— — —Do you abandon God when the difficulties of life come for some physical comfort or do you lean into God when the difficulties come up?</p> <p>— — — —What has your attention? Is it God, or is it something else?</p> <p>— — — — —If God examined your heart right now in this moment what would it look like?</p>

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