

# The Heart Hardened

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
<b>RECAP:</b>	<p>So, last week we looked at the biblical definition of heart or what the Bible sees the heart as.</p> <p>—As we looked at last week the Bible defines the heart as the inner self, the place where thoughts come from, the mind, the place where choices are made, your intellect, or your will.</p> <p>— —After we looked at the definition of heart we looked at what the heart was capable of.</p> <p>— — —We saw that the heart is capable of good and bad and we looked at biblical examples of that.</p> <p>— — — —We also talked about modern day examples of how the heart can do wicked and exchange the truth for a lie.</p> <p>— — — — —We also talked about how Jesus is the only one who makes hearts new. He is the only one that can take our broken heart and make it pure.</p>
<b>INTRODUCTION:</b>	<p>Today we will look at what hardening the heart means.</p> <p>—We will see what causes it and we will see who can have their hearts hardened.</p> <p>— —Believers in Christ need to be aware of our hearts because they can become hard very easily.</p> <p>— — —Next week we will look at what we can do to combat a hard heart.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p><b>Hebrews 3:7–11 (NASB95):</b> 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>So, we need to look at what it means to harden our hearts.</p> <p>— Our passage shows us the bad example that Israel set and tells us not to be like them, “Do not harden your heart.”</p> <p>— — Well, in order to avoid something, we have to know what it is.</p> <p>— — This explanation will be as involved and take some time much like our understanding what the heart is.</p> <p>— — — This will be in no means an exhaustive look at hardening of hearts but will hopefully help us to know what it is.</p>
	<p>So with the way that the Christian church is working today is probably the most dangerous, way of hardening the heart: is in delay.</p> <p>— As our passage tell us, “Today!!!” It seems that it is becoming easier and easier for those who profess to be believers in Christ to delay in the things that He has called us to be and do.</p> <p>— — Andrew Murray wrote, “There is nothing so hardening as delay. When God speaks to us, He asks for a tender heart, open to the whispers of His voice of love. The believer who answers the To-day of the Holy Ghost with the to-morrow of some more convenient season, knows not how he is hardening his heart; the delay instead of making the surrender and obedience of faith easy, makes it more difficult.”</p> <p>— — — When God calls us to action and we tell Him to wait we have not surrendered our lives to Him and His plan, we are not following in obedience, and we don’t have a tender open heart.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>When we think about surrendering our lives to Christ it means that we trust Him and we believe in Him.</p> <p>— So, the hardening of heart by delay happens because we have not surrendered; we do not fully trust and believe in God.</p> <p>— — How do you know if you do not trust and believe in God?</p> <p>— — — You walk by sight. You look to yourself or to physical things and trust those where God is just your back up plan.</p> <p>— — — — Worse than that, in distrust of God, a person begins to look to the world and all of its “light” to guide their path.</p> <p>— — — — — The world is allowed to mold and shape the soul not the Word of God thus the heart becomes hardened to God.</p>
	<p>When the world is allowed to have free passage to the heart of a person; that person loses the heart open to God.</p> <p>— <b><u>READ: Colossians 2:8 (NASB95): 8</u></b> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.</p> <p>— <b><u>READ: 1 John 2:15–17 (NASB95): 15</u></b> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.</p> <p>— <b><u>READ: James 4:4 (NASB95): 4</u></b> You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>But we should be a people who trust God and don't lean on our own understanding because we do not have the full picture of all eternity.</p> <p>—<b>READ: Psalm 9:10 (NASB95): 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You.</b></p> <p>—<b>READ: Psalm 28:7 (NASB95): 7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.</b></p> <p>— — We trust God by giving our whole lives and whole heart over to Him.</p> <p>— — — Jesus went to the cross and makes the sacrifice for all who would believe—all who would give their whole heart/their whole live to Him.</p> <p>— — — — So, naturally when we try to take that heart back or our live back we harden our hearts to God.</p> <p>— — — — — Or if you have never given your life to Christ you will not trust Him or believe He is who He says He is and your heart will be hard to Christ.</p>
	<p>Also, the hardening of heart by delay happens because we have not embraced a new heart and destroyed the old hard heart.</p> <p>— The effect of a new heart is obedience to God but when we allow sin, pride, and lack of understand that lived in our old heart to continue to live then obedience does not happen.</p> <p>— — Anyone's heart can be hardened; even seemingly faithful Christians.</p> <p>— — — <b>READ: Mark 8:17 (NASB95): 17 And Jesus, aware of this, *said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?</b></p> <p>— — — — Jesus asked His disciples if they had hard hearts and they spent every day with Jesus.</p> <p>— — — — — But sin causes our hearts to grow hard.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Sin left, will fester like an infection causing it to be hard to see between right and wrong.</p> <p>— If we continue in the Mark passage we just looked at it says: <b>READ: Mark 8:18–19 (NASB95): 18 “Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember, 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?”</b></p> <p>— — Sin blinds us to the things of God and deafens us to the word of God causing us to harden our heart towards God and not live in obedience to the commandment of God.</p> <p>— — — If we are God’s, we will hear Him: <b>READ: John 10:3–5 (NASB95): 3 “To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 “When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 “A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”</b></p> <p>— — — — There is always a response that happens when Jesus calls.</p> <p>We can either listen to the call revealing that we are Christ’s or we close our ears to the call of Christ.</p> <p>— Murray wrote, “He (God) calls us not to harden or close the heart, but to harken to the voice of God there; the Holy Spirit cannot possibly lead us into the power of the blessing of God’s word unless with our whole heart we hearken to the voice.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Part of sin is pride. Pride causes a heart to be hardened as well.</p> <p>— <b>READ: Obadiah 3–4 (NASB95):</b> 3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’ 4 “Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the Lord.</p> <p>— <b>— READ: Daniel 5:20–21 (NASB95):</b> 20 “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him. 21 “He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Murray wrote, “With the heart man believeth, whether in God or the world. As our heart is, so our faith, and so our life. Our enjoyment of Christ, our spiritual strength, and fruitfulness, or nearness to God, and our experience of His working in us, all depend, not upon single, isolated act of faith, but upon the state of the heart.”</p> <p>—When professing Christians embrace their graven images or, their thought-images and worship them; they have a wrong understanding and are in a pattern of hardening our heart.</p> <p>— —If we can exchange the God of universe, who created all things, holds all things in place, and is in control of all things for a carved image or a created image in our minds we obviously don’t understand who God is.</p> <p>— — —<b><u>READ: Romans 1:22–25 (NASB95): 22</u></b></p> <p><b>Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.</b></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>— The hardening of the heart is not just for really bad guys like Pharaoh but can happen to faithful Christians.</p> <p>— — As Murray says, “You waited for strength, to make obedience easier; for feeling, to make the sacrifice less painful. You did not listen to the voice of God breathing through every word. He speaks that wondrous note, even through the living word, Jesus Christ, that wondrous note of hope To-day.”</p> <p>— — — We need to surrender and hand over our old heart and live in the obedience to God.</p> <p>— — — — The hardening of our heart can happen quick and causes us to not see, not hear, not understand, and not remember God. We need to seek Him out often throughout our days.</p>
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