

God vs a Hardend Heart

Intro

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Please be thinking about our fall schedule and the ways you can get involved!

Lifegroup start up August 28th

Have your been engaging in the psalms well. I am through Sons of Korah.

Please open your Bible to Psalm 95. I am using the HCSB

Read text

Pray

General overview:

Ben talked about Kings writing the law down for themselves.

King David did this and more.

Hebrews 4:7 tells us the King David wrote this psalm

Verses 1-7a uses General revelation with a call to worship God.

Three times the Israelites are commanded to worship God.

There is recognition that God is the Creator and continues to be involved in His creation.

Wise, Sovereign, orderly, Good
David reminds Israel that God is the good Shepard! (Psalm 23)

Israel are the sheep in the pasture, the pasture in the Promise land.

Today, if you hear His voice:

WARNING!

Urgent call to life and death!

8 "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the wilderness **9** where your fathers tested Me; they tried Me, though they had seen what I did. **10** For 40 years I was disgusted with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray; they do not know My ways.' **11** So I swore in My anger, 'They will not enter My rest.' "

God Says he is disgusted with that generation and then gives specific examples of a sin in the wilderness.

WHATS UP?

Question, what is a hardened hearts.

To a Jewish person the heart was the soul, emotion, and thinking center of a person.

SET UP History Time! Just facts, no bad examples.

Exodus 17:1-7 **1** The entire Israelite community left the Wilderness of Sin, moving from one place to the next according to the Lord's command. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** So the people complained to Moses: "Give us water to drink." "Why are you complaining to me?" Moses replied to them. "Why are you testing the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What should I do with these people? In a little while they will stone me!" **5** The Lord answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the Staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go. **6** I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

At first glance, I think, why is God being so hard on the people?

They just want water for themselves, children, and livestock!

Lets dig a little deeper!

Verse 2 ...Moses replied to them. "Why are you testing the Lord?"
How were they testing the Lord?

Verse 3 ... "Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

How were they testing the Lord? Questioning His Motive and Character.

Verse 5 ... Take the Staff you struck the Nile with in your hand and go.

Verse 6 I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock...

God the good shepherd was going in front of them, to lead them and provide for them!

Massah= Temptation

Meribah= Strife or contention

Set Up Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us then make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

In my mind, it is a lot like the scars and TKD

Gained information

Worked out

Got hurt

Went numb

Need painful help

Number 14:21-23 **21** Yet as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the Lord's glory, **22** none of the men who have seen My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested Me these 10 times and did not obey Me, **23** will ever see the land I swore to [give] their fathers. None of those who have despised Me will see it.

Walk through the wilderness to the big chance to go into the land!

What about David's growth to his big chance!

What about You!

Back to the question, what is the hardness of Heart?

To know God and see him work and despite all the evidence continue to question His Character, to the point that you are not able to take steps forward in Faith!

I am not saying that everyone in this room has a hardened heart and cannot be used by God! I am saying that you can have portions of your life that are hardened, and if gone unchecked will bleed over into other areas!

We still need to answer the question about the imagery of the Rock.

Psalm 95:1 and the rock that was struck in the wilderness. God is the rock we rest on or stumble on!

1 Cor. 10 :1-5,11 **1** Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. **3** They all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. **5** But God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness...

11 Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

Christ was the spiritual rock and they looked to Him and said your not enough.

Christ is either the Rock we stand on daily to be conformed into his image, or he is the Rock we stumble on daily and continue to be conformed to the world.

Out of the Rock the living water flows. The Israelites were not satisfied with the living water on Christ.

The hardening of the heart is worst than sinning. One way is you my not be able to see that your heart is hardened!

Are there some indicators or symptoms that can help you see?

You might have a hard heart if:

1. You find yourself frequently mistrusting God's goodness and power. And no amount of evidence is ever enough for you to actually move forward in trusting Him.

Example "I can't trust God ever since _____"

2. You are constantly discontent in life.

Example "I am not getting what I deserve!"

3. You're consistently inflexible.

Example "I am always right."

4. Surround yourself with people that have the same sin patterns and thus won't challenge you on them.

Example "Other folks just don't understand what it's like to be me."

Hebrews 3: 7-12 **7** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you hear His voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the desert, **9** where your fathers tested Me, tried [Me], and saw My works **10** for 40 years. Therefore I was provoked with this generation and said, "They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways." **11** So I swore in My anger, "They will not enter My rest."

Hebrews 3:12,13 **12** Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. **13** But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today , so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

Action Steps

Verse 12 Watch out= Blepo= Discern

Verse 13 Encourage= parakolea= call to one's side (tense/present, mood/active, voice/imperative)

Hebrews 4:1,2 **1** Therefore, while the promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear so that none of you should miss it. **2** For we also have received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard did not benefit them, since they were not united with those who heard it in faith

It seems proper that we will now spend time and reflection taking communion.

The Promise

Hebrews 4:1 **1** Therefore, while the promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear so that none of you should miss it.

