Hard Hearts

Ken Chapman · Ezekiel 3:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- You want somebody who has the ability to be touched, to be able to be moved emotionally.

1 A Language Barrier Is Easier Than a Hard Heart

Ezekiel 3:1–7

- Now, I take that scroll to be the message, the word of God. And so he says, consume it. Make it a part of you.
- And that house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to me. For all the house of Israel are impudent and hard hearted.
- God says Ezekiel, a language barrier, is easier to overcome than a hard heart.

2 The Tragic Condition of a Hard Heart

Matthew 13:14–15; Hebrews 4:7; Hebrews 4:12

- And a hard heart describes one who is unwilling and therefore unable to be moved and touched and reached by the word of God.
- For the hearts of this people have grown dull, their ears are hard of hearing, they have closed their eyes.
- Today, if you will hear his voice, do not harden your heart.
- The word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and is the discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart.
- It is that spiritual MRI that shows who I really am.

3 Pharaoh and the Unbelievers Hardened Their Hearts

Romans 1:18–25

- Throughout history and in the present day, there is an increasingly long list of people who are unwilling and therefore unable to be moved to obedience by the word of God.
- Ten times it is stated that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. And ten other times it is stated that God hardened his heart.
- God made demands upon Pharaoh that were not in accordance with his own stubborn will. And so in that sense, God hardened his heart.
- Although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

4 Can Believers Be Hard of Heart?

- Is it possible for those who believe in God to be hard of heart?
- God sent me to his covenant people and described them as hard-hearted.

- There was nothing that for some of them at least was ever going to move the needle of their heart.
- Religious people today who claim a love for God, a love for Jesus and a belief in him, Have just become hard-hearted to the truth.

5 Even His Disciples Were Hard of Heart

Mark 6:52; Mark 8:17

- For they had not understood about the loaves, what Jesus had said about the loaves and feeding them. Why? Because their heart was hardened.
- Do you not perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?
- We too can allow ourselves to be callous to the truth and to the needs of our fellow man.
- It was the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side, unmoved by the plight of their fellow man.

6 Is Our Heart Open to the Truth?

- Is our heart open? To the truth, whatever the truth is and wherever it may lead us.
- Even if the truth God is trying to declare to us through His Word is different from what we've always heard and believed, are we willing to be moved by it?
- Let's just open up the Bible and open up our hearts at the same time. And let's see. If it says different, then we'll change.
- Or is that just a platitude? Spoken to camouflage a hard heart.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would your heart be moved by the truth of God's word? Are you receptive? Will you hear it and see the truth of God's word before you and obey it this morning? Can you be moved by that word of God?**

MY NOTES