

# HOW GOD DEALS WITH A HARDENED HEART

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – RECHARGE – Pastor Ben Nistor

## REVIEW from LAST SUNDAY, February 26:

- Pastor Andrew’s handout from Mark 6:53–56, “Jesus Comes Healing and Healing”
- The RED BRICK WALL → The Lord INSTRUCTS. We OBEY. He works out the plan.

## WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL OF MARK TEACH ABOUT THE HUMAN HEART?

<p><b>Mark 2:6–7</b></p>	<p><i>6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, <b>questioning in their hearts</b>, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”</i></p>	<p>1) Our <u>QUESTIONS</u> about the Lord Jesus can lead to hardened hearts.</p>
<p><b>Mark 3:2–6</b></p>	<p><i>2 And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” 4 And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. 5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved <b>at their hardness of heart</b>, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.</i></p>	<p>2) Our <u>INACTION</u> of doing what is <u>RIGHT</u> could show a hardened heart.</p> <p>3) Hard hearts <u>ANGER</u> and <u>GRIEVE</u> Jesus.</p> <p>4) The hard heart seeks to <u>ACCUSE</u> and <u>DESTROY</u>.</p>
<p><b>Mark 6:51–52</b></p>	<p><i>51 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but <b>their hearts were hardened</b>.</i></p>	<p>5) A lack of <u>UNDERSTANDING</u> about <u>GOD</u> can be a sign of a hard heart.</p>
<p><b>Mark 7:5–7</b></p>	<p><i>5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honors me with their lips, but their <b>heart is far from me</b>; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’</i></p>	<p>6) To pay <u>LIP SERVICE</u> to God is a sign of a hard heart.</p> <p>7) God expects us to praise him through our <u>obedience</u> of <u>HIS COMMANDS</u>.</p>
<p><b>Mark 7:20–22</b></p>	<p><i>20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of <b>the heart of man</b>, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.</i></p>	<p>8) <u>EVIL</u> is borne in the heart.</p> <p>9) The heart is responsible for <u>EVIL ACTIONS</u>.</p>

<p><b>Mark 8:14–21</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. <b>15</b> And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” <b>16</b> And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. <b>17</b> And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? <b>Are your hearts hardened?</b> <b>18</b> Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? <b>19</b> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” <b>20</b> “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” <b>21</b> And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”</p>	<p>10) <u>SIN</u> is contagious. It easily <u>INFECTS</u> hearts.</p> <p>11) Failing to heed Christ’s <u>WARNINGS</u> could result in a hard heart.</p> <p>12) Our <u>UNDERSTANDING</u> of Christ’s work can protect us from hardened hearts.</p>
<p><b>Mark 10:4–6</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” <b>5</b> And Jesus said to them, “Because of <b>your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.</b> <b>6</b> But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’”</p>	<p>13) God’s <u>LAW</u> condemns the human heart.</p>

## HOW DOES GOD DEAL WITH HARDENED HEARTS?

### #1 – The Gospel of Mark shows Jesus dealing with hardened hearts through BOAT TRIPS.

**Boat Trip #1:** Jesus **CONFRONTS** the disciples in their fear and faithlessness – Mark 4:35–41  
***40** He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41** And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

**Boat Trip #2:** Jesus **ALLOWS** the disciples to experience great pain and terror – Mark 6:45–52  
*And they were utterly astounded, **52** for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.*

**Boat Trip #3:** Jesus **WARNS** the disciples against misunderstanding Christ’s purpose – Mark 8:14–21

### #2 -- The History of Redemption shows God dealing with hardened hearts through BOAT TRIPS.

**Boat Trip #1:** God CONDEMNNS humanity for their wickedness and sends a FLOOD – Genesis 6:5–14  
***13** And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **14** Make yourself an ark of gopher wood.*

**Boat Trip #2:** God allows JONAH to have a terrifying, near-death experience – Jonah 1–2  
***2** “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” **3** But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. **4** But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.*

**Boat Trip #3:** God uses PAUL's SHIPWRECK to BLESS him and others before standing trial – Acts 27

**#3 – TODAY,** God deals with hardened hearts by offering his GREAT SALVATION.

- In God's kindness, he grants FAITH – Mark 9:20–24  
*20 And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*
- In God's kindness, he sends the HELPER – John 14:25–26  
*25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
- In God's kindness, he AFFLICTS his people – Psalm 119:65–72; See also Hebrews 12:3–11; James 1:2–4; Romans 5:1–5

*65 You have dealt well with your servant,  
O Lord, according to your word.  
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in your commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I keep your word.  
68 You are good and do good;  
teach me your statutes.  
69 The insolent smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;  
70 their heart is unfeeling like fat,  
but I delight in your law.  
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn your statutes.  
72 The law of your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

- In God's kindness, he gives us NEW HEARTS – Ezekiel 36:25–27; See also Jeremiah 31:31–33; Ephesians 4:22–24  
*25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*