

Questions for reflection:

What does it mean to have a hardened heart? How would you describe the actions, affections, etc. of what it looks like to have a hardened heart?

- ❖ There's a tension between the idea that the law of the Lord is perfect and that Moses gave certain commandments because of the hardness of the people's hearts. How can something be perfect if this is the case?
- ❖ How do children model the kind of behavior or attitude that Jesus says is fitting for the kingdom of God? In what ways am I unlike a child? Which of these does Jesus want to see changed in me?
- ❖ What are some things that keep us from having a soft heart?

Looking Forward: Mark 10:17-31

Gospel of Mark.

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 10:1-16
Hardness of Heart

Looking Back: Mark 9:38-50

List 3-4 observations from this passage that are new for you..

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Loving God with your actions

- Make a list of at least 2 ways that you have hardened your heart to the desires and to the will of God.
- How do you receive the word of God? Is it like a child (with innocence, humility, and a heart that desires to please)? Take note of the interactions you have and the actions you take this week. How does the way you conduct yourself fall in line with what God wants? Are you searching to replicate God's nature or are you only looking to check off the boxes of being a Christian?
- If someone were to look at your actions this week, would they say that you look/act like Christ?

Loving God with your heart

- ❑ Spend some time reading in the book of Deuteronomy. The idea of "heart" and hardness of heart is prevalent in this book. Read through Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and reflect on how God calls his people to love him.
- ❑ What holds the affections of your heart?
- ❑ If you could change your own heart in one area, what would it be?

Loving God with your mind

Want to look deeper? Did you know...

- ❖ The only reason acceptable to Jesus for divorce is adultery. See Matthew 5:31-32. Then read Ephesians 5:22-33. Is divorce compatible (or even possible) with this kind of marriage?
- ❖ The word "One" in the Bible is sometimes used when multiple things unite to create something new and complete. "Day

one" in Genesis 1 consists of evening and morning; "one flesh" in Genesis 2 consists of a man and his wife. These examples serve as an apologetic for the triunity of God - the triune God is one.

- ❖ "Beyond the Jordan" is an interesting setting. This is east of the promised land. Biblically, the east is usually a bad place where wickedness exists. (See Genesis 3:23-24, Babylon is to the east, Lot headed east). We remember that Moses never made it into the promised land, but died east of the river Jordan (Deuteronomy 34). The Pharisees are east of the river here asking Jesus about the Law of Moses.
- ❖ The relationship between the Law of Moses and a follower of Jesus is an interesting one. Many have undertaken to give a biblical theology of the Law, beyond what can be stated here. For our text though, we should note that the Pharisees have elevated it to a standing it was never intended to have in the life of a child of God. Read Romans 7; Galatians 3:15-25, 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. The law of Moses is good, but it is not the best.

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

Law: Acts 5:29, 1 Timothy 1:8-10, Galatians 2:16, 1 John 3: 4.

Hard Heart: Matthew 19:8, Ephesians 4: 18, Hebrews 3:8.

Divorce: Deuteronomy 24: 1-4, Matthew 5: 31-32, Mathew 19: 1-12, 1 Corinthians 7: 10-16.

Children: Psalms 34: 11, Matthew 19: 13-15, Luke 18: 15, John 8: 31-47.

Outcasts: Jeremiah 30:17, Isaiah 56:8, Psalm 147:2