

OVERCOMING THE HARDNESS OF HEART

(From the Parable of the Sower)

(Kaikohe CF and Grace Assembly - 14/9/97 - EKB)

1. Reading: *Mk 4:3,4,14,15*.
2. God works in our lives by His Word. He speaks His Word into our heart.
3. As we **know His Word,**
believe His Word,
act on His Word, } this is what "faith" means

then the Word is fulfilled and bears much fruit.
4. But as Jesus said **where our heart is hard**, like a pathway, *Mk 4:3,4,14,15*, the Word lies on the surface and the devil snatches it away from us.
5. This hardness is one of three things that stop God's Word bearing fruit in us. (The other two are the stony ground and the thorny ground.)
6. **Hardness against God's Word is caused by believing the wrong thing**, i.e. wrong belief, unbelief, believing Satan's lies.
7. In *Mk 4:35-41* Jesus' Word to the disciples was to go to the other side of the lake. They set out on His Word but a big storm hit them and waves were filling their boat. They woke Him up and said, "Master, don't you care that we are perishing?" He arose and rebuked the storm and it stopped. He rebuked His disciples, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" When the storm hit they stopped believing the Word he had spoken, and instead believed that they were going to sink and drown. Instead of using their faith in His Word to rebuke the storm, ("In Jesus' Name we are going to the other side of this lake, so, Storm cease!"), they started believing that the wind and waves were in control, and they were about to die. They were **believing the wrong thing**. Their hearts were hard and Satan snatched the Word of Jesus away from them.
8. After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared first to Mary, then to two disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus. They told those who had been with Him, but they did not believe them. Afterwards He appeared to His eleven apostles, and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen from the dead, *Mk 16:9-14*.
9. Hardness of heart prevented them believing the Word of God. See *Mk 9:31*, *Mk 10:34*. Jesus had told them a number of times that He would suffer, die, and three days later rise from the dead. They refused to believe that He was alive and had risen from the dead, because they believed that He was still dead. **They believed the wrong thing**, a lie of Satan.
10. Believing the wrong thing causes hardness against God's Word, and the devil snatches away God's Word from us.
11. Sometimes when someone is sick, they keep asking God to heal them, asking and asking as though by their much asking they will persuade God to do it. This is wrong belief and hardness. We do need to ask, *Jam 4:2*, *Lk 11:9*, but the Word says we are all healed 2000years ago at Calvary, by Jesus on the Cross, *Mat 8:17*, *1Pet 2:24*. We need to go on from asking to **receiving** our healing, by faith in these promises of God. See also *Ps 107:20*, (Jesus is the Word God has sent) and *Is 53:4* (where "griefs" is sicknesses in the

- Hebrew). *Mk 11:24* says, “Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you **receive it**, and you will have it.”
12. For 6 months, in 1964, I prayed for God to baptize me with the Holy Spirit and nothing happened, because I believed wrongly, that I must have to pray harder, or be more holy to get it. This was my hardness, my wrong belief, and I could not **receive**. One night the Holy Spirit showed me it was a “**GIFT**” and not something to be earned. So I started saying, “thank you, thank you for baptizing me with the Holy Spirit,” and I quickly received.
 13. Some peoples’ hearts are hard against God’s Word because they wrongly believe:
 - a. we get saved by doing good works,
 - b. Jesus did not rise from the dead,
 - c. there is no God,
 - d. everyone goes to heaven anyway, and there is no hell,
 - e. there is no devil,
 - f. and many other lies of Satan.
 14. “Geoff” was weeping at the back of the meeting. I asked him why. He said that his fiancée had broken their engagement because she had just become a Christian and he was not. I said, “Why don’t you become a Christian?” He replied that he had tried every day for months. Each night he would ask Jesus to come into his heart, but every morning, when he awoke, he was the same old “Geoff.” I explained Jesus’ promise in *Rev 3:20*. “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone, hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in, and sup with him and he with me.” I said to Geoff, “I will lead you in prayer one more time, to ask Jesus to come into your heart, and from that moment on you are to praise and thank Him that He is living in you, just as He promised.” A week later I visited “Geoff” and the moment I saw him I knew he had been born again. His face was beaming with the presence of Jesus. **HALLELUJAH!**
 15. Keep in the Word. Let the Word renew your mind, *Rom 12:2* and thinking and believing.

Break up the hardness of wrong believing, and line up your believing with God’s Word.