

Good News By Vic Dove Hard Heart

"I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh will not heed you."
Exodus 7: 3-4

Have you ever met someone who was just plain stubborn? Probably, you know people within your circle of friends who insist on having their way. They are hard headed about what they want. Well, God put it another way. God called it a heart problem. A moment of reflection causes us to laugh uncomfortably at the suggestion that we might know something about this self-centeredness personally.

God has given us example after example to clear up any confusion on our part. Nevertheless, we stand in danger of following in the footsteps of Pharaoh if we refuse to submit to God's standard. The more we can be

duped into believing that we're right and God is wrong, the more we are in danger of developing a hard heart.

Let's be honest. We all want things the way we want them. We all want what we want when we want it. I am more comfortable when things are the way I like them. Most people are. The tension comes into play when we want what is not what God wants. Refusal to listen to God time and time again will corrode the heart of the believer until nothing can melt the hardness.

We must understand the danger signs of a hard heart. Otherwise, we can and will rationalize ourselves right into disaster. Pharaoh's story supplies us with signs to use as a check list for a hard heart.

The first sign (and the one we all struggle with) is stubbornness. Pharaoh was eaten up with a stubborn spirit. However, we can't point a finger at him, without pointing three at ourselves. It's the way we react when we know we shouldn't do something, and we respond, "I know I shouldn't, but I'm going to anyway."

A lack of concern for spiritual things is the second sign of a hard heart and is evidence that God's work is second to our own. A lack of concern for spiritual things means you are more concerned about your business than God's business. The selfishness of that attitude is evidence that when God's business gets in the way of your plans, you choose to do things the way things work best for you.

The third sign of a hard heart is pride. Men suffer from this disease quite often. We pretend to be experts about everything. No matter what anyone else says, our way is the right way. Often it is hard for us to accept instructions from anyone. When we know we are wrong, we argue instead of facing up to it. And the tragedy is, everybody knows our problem is pride.

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