Hardened - Joshua 11:20

**For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.**

One of the hardest things we see in the bible is when God hardens people’s hearts. We see it here in Joshua, we saw it in Exodus with Pharoah, and we are seeing it today with people who constantly deny God in their lives. It is hard for us to understand this because we see a loving God who as 2 Peter states “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.” (3:9).

The truth is that even in the year of our Lord 2023, God is hardening people’s hearts. Romans 1 is very clear that God is giving people what they want in this world and that is a life without Him. In this country we are seeing that livelihood come to fruition. It is just not about abortion, it is just not about homosexuality, it is not just about open drug use. It is a mixture of all of these and more. We have, as a church and a society, been desensitized to sin. We are taught to embrace it and live in it because it is not our fault.

So what does a hardened heart look like? Just turn on the news, read current topics, and look no further than what is being taught in our schools. The public libraries have feminine products in boys bathrooms, but the bible is not on display anywhere. You might find it in the fiction section, while transitioning to a different sex is up front and center. This world is being bombarded with things that God calls abominations, and the world loves it.

It is not all doom and gloom, however, because God still has a remnant in this world and will continue to do so. It is hard to watch those we care for a love get turned over and their hearts be hardened, but God is able to revive those dry bones again. He is able to do anything and everything, He is God after all.

Remember this week that not all is lost, the battles here may be lost but the war is already won. If you have family who are still in the world pray for them, if you have friends who are not believers pray for them and witness to both. God hears our prayers. As always, continue in your Bibles and never cease praying.

Classes may take their place.