

MODULE 2 THE WORD



INTRODUCTION

Describe a voice that you just love hearing. In other words, it may be a parent, a friend, a distant relative, a coach, etc... What was it that makes their voice stand out to you? What does their voice do to you?

EXAMINING THE PIECES

Today we're going to be looking at a passage that, ultimately, culminates in one of the most famous declarations of what the Word of God is and does.

In order to get the context for that famous declaration, we will need to start a number of paragraphs before.

Read Hebrews 3:7-4:13

Describe the context of 3:7-19.

What are the many terms the writer of Hebrews uses for God's Word throughout 3:7-4:13?

What was the problem with these people?

What does a hard heart look like in response to God's word?

What's the point?

In this lesson, we want to build upon the foundational truths presented in module 1.2 on the web - that the Scriptures are the very words of God; they are fully true, and they are completely authoritative.

We want to now make this more personal by considering our response to the Word of God. Will we become numb to the Word of God? Or, will we allow God's very Words to surgically pierce through our hard hearts and move our hearts to ultimately cling to the One who the Scriptures point to.

What's the problem?

Whether we are acutely aware of it or not, our hearts are forever prone towards indifference, numbness, and just plain hardness in relation to God and His Word. And, like physical heart surgery, we can't perform open heart surgery on ourselves to fix it.

EXAMINING THE PIECES CON'T

Have you ever wondered how people who had seen such miraculous works of God (the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, the daily provision of Manna, the lightening and fire of glory surrounding Mt Sinai) still have such a hard heart? How do you think that can happen?

4:2 gives us a hint as to how their heart was hardened when they heard God's word. What is it?

This moves us to 4:12-13. Where does the Word of God aim it's sharp sword?

In light of what we've studied so far, why does it have to be so sharp?

SO WHAT?

Even despite all that you've seen God do and all that you've heard of him doing (in history through His Word), how have you seen a callousness to God's word in your own life?

When we become callous to God's Word, usually the last thing we want to do is to run to the Scriptures. But, it's the piercing thrust of the scriptures that we most need in our life in those moments. What would it look like if you turned to the Scriptures in prayerful honesty and humility during those hard hearted times?

As supreme as the Scriptures are, they are not an end in themselves. Read 4:14-16. Where do they ultimately point?

In our struggle with hard-heartedness, why is looking to Christ such a healing balm for our soul?

Spend some time praying for the following:

- For a fresh perspective on hearing the "voice" of God.
- For the Word of God to do it's penetrating work in your life.
- For the word to be united by humble faith.
- For Christ to be your strength in your weakness.

What's the solution?

The Word that we become hardened to is the very Word that is our only hope. The Word is the only thing on earth that is sharp enough to pierce my hard heart, and ultimately point me to the One that my soul needs - Christ.

What's our response?

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we humble ourselves under the authority and supremacy of the Word of God, allowing it to pierce and point. One one had, it has to pierce our hearts. And, as it does, on the other hand it points us to Christ and his lavishly life-changing grace.