

Devotion #3- Hardened Hearts

The book of Isaiah has shown us some amazing prophecies fulfilled by Jesus! The first week we discovered that Jesus was born through a miracle and grew up in poverty. Last week, we were taught that the Father was proud of the Son, Jesus Christ. They had an intimate and special relationship.

This week we will learn of a prophecy about the people of Israel. Isaiah 6:9-10 reads, "And he said, 'Go and tell this people: Keep on listening, but do not understand; And keep on looking, but do not gain knowledge. Make the hearts of the people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes blind, So that they will not see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed.'" Isaiah proclaims that the people of Israel will be blind to what they see, deaf to what they hear, and their hearts will be hardened to the truth. 700 years later Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom was coming through him and that people must confess their sins and believe in him as the true King. To authenticate his message, he performed many miracles. John 12:37 reads, "But though he had performed so many signs in their sight, they were still not believing in him."

Have you ever chosen not to listen to your parents when they instructed you to do something? In that moment, your heart has been hardened to their request. You have been blind to their instructions. You have been deaf to their commands. You refuse to believe the truth of their instructions.

Jesus has proclaimed truth over the world. Mark 1:14-15 reads, "Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.'" The truth has been given to all of us. Jesus proclaimed to be the Son of God and died as the sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Three days later, he rose again and proclaimed new life for the world. You know the truth. Is your heart hardened? Are you blind or do you see? Are you deaf or do you hear?

Questions

1. Can you think of a situation where you were supposed to do something, but you hardened your heart instead?
2. Why did you harden your heart in that situation?
3. When you hear the message about Jesus, do you believe or is your heart hardened?