



Dgroup Discussion Guide for October 9, 2016

Do Not Harden Your Heart

Scripture: **Exodus 4-5**

The hardening of the heart comes with four symptoms, as shown in Exodus.

Disavow

When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to ask that he allow the Israelites to trek to the wilderness to send an offering to the Lord, he did not grant them permission. Because Pharaoh did not personally know the Lord, he disavowed Him. This was already expected, as Exodus 4:21 says, ***The Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.*** Obedience is usually a byproduct of relationship; because Pharaoh did not have any sort of relationship with the Lord, he had neither reason nor desire to obey Him.

Dissatisfaction

It wasn't only Pharaoh that experienced a hardening of the heart toward the Lord. When Pharaoh decided to increase the workload of the Israelites by complicating their tasks, they—the same people that worshipped the Lord upon seeing His miracles—complained. In Exodus 5:21, the Israelites ***said to them, “The Lord look on you and judge because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.*** This dissatisfaction with how God executes His plan for their lives is another indication of the hardening of the heart.

Disbelief

Even though the Lord had told Moses previously that Pharaoh would only grant their request under compulsion, he still blamed God for the turn of events. Exodus 5:22-23 says, ***Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have You done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to their people, and you have not delivered Your people at all.”*** The current plight of the Israelites had begun getting to Moses; in the verse, he expressed his unbelief in the promises of the Lord, despite the fact that God had hinted at persecution when He first laid out His plans.

Disobedience

Continued disobedience will result in the callousness, the hardening, of the heart. Hebrews 3:13-15 says, ***But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”*** Because the Israelites displayed disavowment, dissatisfaction, disbelief and disobedience, the journey out of Egypt into the promised land became one that lasted 40 years.





Why did God allow Pharaoh's, and the Israelites', hearts to harden? Romans 9:17 says, ***For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.”*** Ultimately, the Lord allowed this to happen

because the end result is His glorification. It was all a part of His plan of accomplishing His good pleasure.

We are not immune to this hardening of the heart; we are not exempt from sometimes not wanting to become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Deuteronomy 15:7 says, ***If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother.***

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

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|  | Disavow, Dissatisfaction, Disbelief, Disobedience. Among the 4, which do you find yourself falling into? Can you identify specific circumstances and how you reacted to it? |
|  | Even today, we like the Israelites and the Egyptians still fall into the trap of hardening our hearts against God. |
|  | Is there someone specific to whom or to what have you hardened your heart against? How are you overcoming this situation? What specific steps are you doing or intend to do in order to overcome this? |
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PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.