

Hardness of Heart
Part 3
Hardness of Heart in Respect to Memory

- *There are different types of hardness of heart and each one must be dealt with in the appropriate way to result in freedom.*
- *Many times people have used hardness of heart to mean exclusively bitterness but Jesus uses the term hardness of heart to mean much more than that.*
- *Hardness of Heart results in the inability of our hearts to sense or perceive things.*
- *Hardness of Heart results in becoming insensitive to the Holy Spirit.*
- *Just as we have five physical senses to perceive the world around us we have five soul senses to perceive the internal condition of our soul and five spirit senses to perceive God.*

<i>Body</i>	<i>Soul</i>	<i>Spirit</i>
<i>Hearing</i>	<i>Conscience</i>	<i>Faith</i>
<i>Sight</i>	<i>Imagination</i>	<i>Hope</i>
<i>Touch</i>	<i>Affections (phileo)</i>	<i>Love (agape)</i>
<i>Smell</i>	<i>Memory</i>	<i>The Fear of God</i>
<i>Taste</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Revelation Knowledge</i>

- *There are five times that hardness of heart is recorded in the gospel of Mark and it appears that each one deals with one of these soul senses.*
- *We are going to look at how hardness of heart can affect memory.*

Mark 8:13–21 (NKJV)

¹³And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.

¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.

¹⁵Then He charged them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

¹⁶And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have no bread.”

¹⁷But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”

¹⁸Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?

¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of

fragments did you take up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.”

²⁰“Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said, “Seven.”

²¹So He said to them, “How is it you do not understand?”

- *To understand what Jesus is really saying to His disciples we must understand the context.*
- *In Mark 8:1-8 Jesus feeds the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and there are seven large baskets of fragments that are gathered up.*
- *Previously in Mark 6, Jesus feeds the five thousand with five loaves and twelve baskets of fragments of bread are gathered up.*

Mark 8:13 (NKJV)

¹³And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.

- *The disciples had just recently experienced a wonderful event with Jesus and now God takes them on a journey to a new place.*
- *This is a typical pattern we see both in Scripture and in our personal walk with Jesus.*

¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.

- *“They had forgotten to take bread” – They had fed the four thousand and they had all this extra bread they had gathered up but some how they had forgotten to take it with them.*

¹⁵Then He charged them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”

- *Jesus is trying to convey a very important warning to His disciples.*

¹⁶And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have no bread.”

- *Jesus warns them about the doctrine of the Pharisees but because they had forgotten to take bread they thought He was talking about food.*

¹⁷But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”

- *We clearly see that the disciples’ inability to understand what Jesus was saying was due to a hardened heart.*

- “Is your heart still hardened?” – *Jesus had been trying to get through to them through His teachings and miracles but they still were hardhearted and not able to hear.*

¹⁸Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?

- “And do you not remember?” - *The thing that was stopping the disciples from understanding what Jesus was saying was that they did not remember.*
- *What was the thing they had forgotten which would have helped the disciples to understand what Jesus was saying?*

¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.”

²⁰“Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said, “Seven.”

- *Jesus took them back to the two times He had fed the multitude with bread and the latter one had just occurred very recently and possibly that day!*

“how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?”

“how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?”

- *Jesus didn’t ask them how many people were fed or how much food they had at first but how much was left over.*
- *What is the significance of the fragments?*
- *Each of the four Gospels records the feeding of the five thousand and the Gospel of Matthew and Mark also record the feeding of the four thousand.*
- *On each occasion it is recorded that they gathered together the fragments of bread.*
- *In the feeding of the five thousand there can be seen at least 12 principles which illustrate how God deals with us.*
- *The last principle that can be seen is found in John 6:12.*

John 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”

- “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” – *This*

represents the principle of thoroughness.

- *“So when they were filled” – Many times once God has met our need we think that is the end of the experience, however He wants us to receive something much deeper than just having our immediate need met.*
- *The principle of thoroughness is being able to capture those fragments and collecting them so that they can sustain us in the future.*
- *A carnal Christian is only seeking to have his or her immediate needs met.*

John 6:26 (NKJV)

²⁶Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

John 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”

- *Once God has met our immediate needs we must go beyond that experience and be thorough and seek the eternal and spiritual purpose of that experience.*

“Gather up the fragments” – The Greek word for “gather up” means to “gather together; keep in a place, to turn into cash”.

- *We are to take every experience we have had with God and collect it together so that it becomes meaningful for the future and a reserve for future needs and growth.*
- *The fragments may have appeared insignificant but when gathered together provided many baskets full of bread.*
- *The fragments represented the beauty of what God has done for them which they could carry with them while the actual bread they ate only provided for their immediate need.*
- *“Gather up the fragments that remain” – The Greek word for “that remain” means “to be over and above, to abound, provide in excess, over abundantly, have greater advantage”.*
- *The bread they ate provided their immediate need but the fragments of the bread when collected together represented the overflow of the grace and power of God.*
- *“so that nothing is lost.” – The Greek for “lost” means, “ruined, destroyed, unaware of the location, disappear”.*

- *If we are not careful to take every experience we have with God and gather it together in our hearts we will lose the effect that it is to have upon us.*
- *The power and delight of that experience will be lost and we will not even know where to find it.*

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John 6:13 (NKJV)

¹³Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

- *The bread was for today's needs but the fragments are the super abundant overflow for our future needs.*
- *The bread was for a day but the fragments are for a lifetime.*
- *The fragments are a tangible reminder of God's faithfulness.*

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV)

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- *This passage in Deuteronomy is a beautiful picture of gathering the fragments that nothing be lost.*
- *The disciples had a heart that was callused in the area of memory.*
- *A few short hours before they had been filled with delight as Jesus fed four thousand with seven loaves of bread but now the impact of that miracle totally eluded them.*
- *How did the disciples' hearts become hardened in the area of memory?*
- *The disciples were so busy "ministering" and feeding the people and maybe*

even elated as to how they had been “used by God” that they forgot to remember the things that were the most important even to the point of forgetting the seven large baskets of fragments they had just gathered.

- *Pre-occupation, busyness, and wrong priorities will distract us from those things that God wants us to store in our memories.*

Luke 10:38–42 (NKJV)

³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.

⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

- *“But Martha was distracted with much serving” – Jesus was trying to impart something that was very essential for both Mary and Martha but Martha was so busy serving Jesus that she was not in a position to receive.*
- *“And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. – Wrong priorities will rob us and keep us busy and will result in our hearts being hardened.”*
- *“But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” – Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and just listened and gathered the fragments that would be an overflow for her life.*
- *Even prayer can become a distraction from the very thing that God desires to impart to us.*
- *The most important thing we can do is learn to enjoy the presence of God and sit at His feet and listen to what He is saying even as Mary did.*
- *Thanksgiving, worship and adoration are what will enable us to gather the fragments.*
- *What was the warning that Jesus was trying to tell His disciples that they were not able to hear because of the hardness of their hearts?*

Mark 8:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

¹¹Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.

¹²But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.”

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- *No matter how many miracles the Pharisees saw it had no long lasting impact upon them but they always sought another supernatural sign.*
- *We are to gather all the overflow of God’s faithfulness in our lives so that we will walk in complete trust and rest in the leading of the Lord.*
- *When our memories are filled with God’s faithfulness then we will abide in God conscious faith and the delight of the reverential fear of the Lord will be our constant companion.*
- *Meditation deals with memory as much as it does with reason.*
- *As we daily meditate upon the goodness of God and the faithful acts of God in our lives we are gathering the fragments.*
- *We are to be attentive to every circumstance so that we can gather all the daily fragments of God’s overflowing abundant grace.*

Points of Prayer:

- *Thanksgiving for those areas in our lives where we recognize God’s goodness and are becoming more conscious of His faithfulness to us.*
- *Prayer for those areas in our lives we are still easily distracted and our priorities are not balanced and we end up wasting time doing other things and not having the time we need to spend enjoy God’s presence.*