

Sermon Reflections

Don't Harden Your Heart (Exodus 9:13-10:29)

Summary: Do not harden your heart against God, for you cannot oppose God and live. Instead, humble yourself, return to the Lord, and discover again His mercy.

1. The hardened heart opposes God's will. (Ex. 9:13-16)

- In both verse 14 & 16 God declares His purpose in bringing these plagues upon Egypt. What is this purpose? How might this foundational purpose of the Lord help you think rightly during your next trial?
- How should the truth of 9:15 have helped to humble Pharaoh's heart?
- How should we, as Believers, still have an active fear of God?

2. The hardened heart betrays God's mercy. Instead, be changed by His mercy. (Ex. 9:17-35)

- Compare Exodus 9:17 with Romans 8:6-8. Why did Pharaoh oppose God?
- Is there an area in your life where you struggle to submit to God's word? How may your fellowship group pray for you in this area of your sanctification?
- Read Exodus 9:19-21, In what way does God relate to the Egyptians differently than He has in the other plagues? What does this show us about God?

3. The hardened heart adjusts God's commands. Instead, accept all His terms. (Ex. 10:1-20)

- In verses 8-11, how do we see Pharaoh vacillating? What scripture are you tempted to water-down or compromise on, and why?
 - What scriptural imperatives are you accustomed to rationalizing? How are you doing in the admonitions to sharing the gospel? To give generously? To be constant in prayer? To meditate on the word?

4. The hardened heart finally rejects God. Instead, return to His mercy. (Ex. 10:21-29)

- God strengthened what was in Pharaoh's heart, which was a hardened rebellion. (verse 27) What are some verses that assure us that God is just and merciful?
- In verse 29, Pharaoh is glad that Moses is finally leaving his presence, but was it really helpful for Pharaoh to be left to himself? Even as Believers, if we continue to disregard God's word in any area, even ones we may find difficult to obey, how might we be affected?