



JESUS IS SUPERIOR

THE MESSAGE CONNECT

WEEK THREE: Harden Hearts

Go online to ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect to watch this week's Message Connect video.

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 3:1-4 (NLT) "1 And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest. 2 For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire house. 3 But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. 4 For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God."

Hebrews 3:5-6 (NLT) "Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. 6 But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ."

Main Points:

The Antidote For A Hard Heart Is:
Faithfulness — Meaning: Resilient, Committed, Unwavering.

Hardening Of Heart: Is When I See, Hear Or God Stirs Something In Me And I Don't Do Anything With It.

There Are Two Kinds Of Unbelieving Hearts:

- A Heart That Actively Rejects God.
- A Heart That Is Passively Rejecting God.

How Do You Know If Your Heart Is Hardening?

1. When God Keeps Telling Me The Same Stuff Over And Over Again.
2. God Is At Work, But All I Can Do Is Complain.
3. My Response Of Truth, Stirs Up A Defensive Spirit Rather Than A Sense Of Conviction.
4. When It Gets Easier To Do Wrong, And Harder To Do Right.

Next Steps:

1. Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

What was your first job? What was it like (responsibilities, environment, co-workers)? What lessons did you learn?

What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

2. Start Thinking. Ask a thoughtful question.

Do you ever feel like quitting or giving up? At your job, in relationships, in your faith? Why?

Can you think of examples of Jesus' faithfulness in difficulty? What can we learn from them?

Just as the Jews did with Moses, do you elevate something or someone to a position that only Jesus belongs? Why do you think we do this? How can we prevent this?

To see something, know something, and be stirred to do something and then do nothing is to have a hardened heart. Have you been convicted to do something you have ignored or rejected? Explain.

Has anyone been prompted by God to do something difficult that you accepted and acted out on in faith? Describe what that was and what happened as a result.

3. Start Sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

"The best way to prevent a hardened heart is when the Spirit of God prompts something within you from His Word – you respond in all faithfulness."

What action steps can you take to fully surrender to God?

- Start listening to the convictions of the Holy Spirit and actively respond immediately
- Remove the things in your life that you elevate to a position only Jesus belongs

4. Start Praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

Take some time to pray over your identified action steps and life issues.

5. Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

What action steps can you take to give God control of the areas of your life that you hold back from Him?

"For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.'" (Hebrews 3:14-15, ESV)

Let Pastor Don lead your discussion.

Pastor Don created The Message Connect videos for *Jesus Is Superior*. Go deeper and wider in your faith walk with us by going to ringgoldchurch.com/messageconnect.