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The condition of a person's heart Pt 2 Tender

This our second and final study on the condition of a person's heart. In our previous study we established three points – (1) Pharaoh's heart was hardened to God, (2) we are commanded not to harden our heart, and (3) There are consequences of having an impenitent and hardened heart. In this study we establish – (1) Josiah had a tender heart, (2) we are required to have a tender heart, and (3) when we have a tender heart toward God we hear, humble ourselves and obey His words!

According to the scriptures

1. Josiah had a tender heart toward the Lord

“But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the Lord, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord...I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.” (2 kg.22: 18 & 19).

2. We are required to have a tender heart

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph.4: 32).

3. When we have a tender heart toward God–

* we hear His words, and humble ourselves before Him

“Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words...I have even heard thee also, saith the Lord” (2 Chr.34: 27).

Illustration

When Karen and I were at Bible College we sat under men and women that had PHD's, who we looked up to for knowledge. Given that “knowledge puffeth up” (1 Cor.8: 1), we knowingly or unknowingly were being puffed up with the knowledge we gained. Until one day I met a man in our last year at BCNZ who knew more scripture verses than I had read, and yet we were supposedly studying the Bible!

Questions to think about.

So, from BCNZ hardening our hearts to the word of God – what softened our hearts His word?

Our answers from the scriptures.

* The process of softening our hearts began with learning the truth – that we have the pure, perfect preserved words of God in the 1611 English Bible. Accompanying this knowledge of truth was the need to surrender the learning from our degrees, our reliance on men with titles like professors & PHDs.

But there is a paradox in knowing truth – we need the truth to soften our hearts to His words, but because we have such knowledge our hearts can be lifted up in pride, and my heart has never needed an excuse to be lifted up.

Is your heart soft, tender and humble before the word of God? You will know by whether or not you listen, and submit to His words, or whether you select the words you want to submit to whilst ignoring other words that are not so palatable.

May we all look to, and follow our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ who said – “for I am meek and lowly in heart” (Mt 11:29), and may our hearts be tender, meek and humble before our God and before each other! To the glory of God!