

Harden Not your Heart – 08 28 05

- Joshua Daniel

What are the effects that follow the preaching of the word of god? Sometimes we do not learn from the lessons which god has been trying to teach us. Now if you turn to the 5th chapter of the book of Daniel, you will see a situation where the king was told by Daniel, listen, god taught your father Nebuchadnezzar, the 5th chapter from the 18th verse please: O thou king, the most high god gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.

And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high god ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled your heart, though thou knewest all this;

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and thou, and thy lords, and wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone.

What is he telling the king? Your heart was lifted up. Your father's heart was lifted up and his mind hardened in pride. Now you are following the same path. We give a heritage and also we set a red flag before those that come after us. You know many people today you can see that dad divorces the mother, the son does the same thing, divorces the wife. I mean the son does the same thing, the grandson does the same thing, the great grandson does the same thing. They never learn to think. You know folks, now here, Belshazzar did not learn anything from what Nebuchadnezzar had

suffered. God had set him outside and he was driven amongst the beasts. Just imagine the king lying in the meadow with the oxen. Just imagine! And what happens to his sons and his grandsons? Hey what's happened to our dad? We can't get him to bed. He has lost his mind. He won't eat his dinner. All he asks is all he wants is grass. What's wrong with our dad? What a judgment has come upon our family that we should watch this humiliating situation. Alright, you would think that a son would learn from what had happened. People never seem to learn. My dad was a philanderer and he brought any amount of tears to us as a little children. I will never live an immoral life. Do people say that? No they don't. same thing all over again, all over again, all over again. Today, poor grandmothers and grandfathers can have no rest. We are told the evening of people's lives, they should have a wonderful time, you know they should enjoy their old age, golden years they are called, no they are not golden years, they are tearful years. Why? The father of the children, their sons, have run off somewhere leaving the grand children and nobody to take care of the grand children rather than the children, the grand children should be raised on the streets and scrounge in the garbage. They say oh let me take in the grand children, but what can an old grandmother do with grand children? They laugh at her. Hey your music is too old, you are too old, you shut up, you sit in your corner and knit if you can. Or here is the television, you watch it. Leave us alone. We know how to live. All round you, you can see such grandmothers and grandfathers, may be if grandfather also hasn't run away. You don't find many grandfathers around. You see friends, we think it's culture, we think it is a lot of fun. It's not fun. Who pays the price? Babies who can't name their dads. They must live throughout their lives without even being able to name their dads. A bunch of heathen ways from godless jungles. Though thou knewest all these, 22nd verse: And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled your heart, though thou knewest all this;

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; you see friends, it doesn't pay a person or bring any good to a person to lift himself against a loving and a holy god. And today when we see laws being passed, the age of consent being lowered, I do not know what else they are planning or conspiring to bring upon this nation. But you see folks, when we cannot tell and show people that to fight against god is a very futile thing, futile thing, you can't fight against god. Now, when the word of god comes to us, either we learn to humble ourselves and receive the blessing or what could happen? In fact the lord Jesus Christ rebuked his disciples about it. If you turn to Mark 6th chapter, 52: For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

I do not know how many miracles, how many mercies you have experienced. I have experienced many mercies. I have been in very dangerous situations in the last year and what have I learnt? This comes to me just now, right now, what have I learnt? Have I learnt to be more grateful? More trustful? God spared my life, god lengthened my days, the lord helped me to see certain new projects which will touch the lives of so many people, un numbered people, god has been so good to me. What have I learnt? Have I learnt to be more humble or more great full or like these disciples, they considered not the miracles of loaves; for they heart was hardened. They are distributed those five loaves to five thousand men until they could eat no more. And yet they had not the learnt their lessons and said oh there is nothing impossible with our lord. And if he is with us, that's all that we really need. If the lord is on my side what can men do unto me? What can circumstances do against me? If the lord is with me, that's is enough for me. You see they didn't learn that lesson. They were full of fear when they saw the lord walking towards them. Of course, when you see somebody walking on the sea, you wonder what's happening here. But the Christian life is full of the miraculous. Our conversion is miraculous. That faith that comes into us, though we see him not with our natural eyes to know that he is Emmanuel, that he is with us. That is a miracle. Because our hearts are unbelieving hearts. The Christian life is one from first to last, there is a strong element of the miraculous. As I look on my life, it seems like a story to me. what god did with a foolish young fellow. A rebellious foolish young fellow. It seems like a story to me. some people may find it hard to believe some of the things that I say. But these are the things that are taking place all the time. And thou his son O Belshazzar has not humbled your heart. Though thou knewest all this.