

## The Hardness of Heart – 10 Oct 2004

- Joshua Daniel

Mark 4:16:- These are they likewise, which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17: And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time:

They receive it with gladness. Now there is lot of singing today, there is some jumping as well. In fact I told somebody recently ,don't imagine that Paul and peter had a jumping match in the church. Well, aerobics have their place. And especially if you see an enlargement in the wrong place you would better apply yourself to some discipline. But I want to tell you that there can be an outward manifestation of immense jubilation which is not accompanied by practical holiness. What kind of religion is that? It's the religion of the devil. And it turns away many people. Just fancy; one of my boys with business colleague of his was having dinner one day in a restaurant and when the girl came in with her bill he looked at it and said you are wrong, you have missed out something in your bill, so correct it and bring it back to me and the man who was seated with him, said to him, John, I am honored to be eating with you. It is sad that there are too many people who when it comes to money, they will not be straight. I want to tell you my dear friends, it should make no difference. You should be able to speak nothing but the truth.

Now therefore, here the lord Jesus tells us that they received the word with gladness and have no root in themselves and so endure but for a time. If one is consistent, you know I can tell everybody, I am not highly talented, never was brilliant, just a very foolish fellow to begin with and I think that quality still persists but one thing, it's the word of God, it's to be trusted. It's to be acted upon and the word of God will endure while all else disappears. Therefore my dear friends, I staked my all upon the word of God. And if you would do that, the bible is in your hand apparently or at least in your house, but if you would do that and walk with a broken spirit. You know we are so much into organization, we hardly know it. You know we believe in organizing this and taking care of this, running our feet until they are sore. But God says "it's by my spirit". I really have no confidence in anything which I might build. It won't last, it will get washed out. But what the spirit of god does, endures. So my dear friends, here we are told they endure but for a time. Now it's unfortunate that people take you for granted. They are indifferent, they say, oh that fellow has got a bee in his ballet or he is gone off the rocker or he is a candidate for the psych ward or some such thing. They don't take you very seriously but where there is persecution there is an acid test there. When you are turned out of your home! You know, one of the girls whom her husband turned out, of his family just because she turned to the lord. She is a medical doctor and that girl has been serving the lord night and day. She didn't sit down and whine and weep. She did try hard to win her husband but the man was adamant. He said "give up Christ, the door is open". But she would not, on those terms and how many such people I meet with. On one occasion after a meeting I was introduced to a woman who was soon in tears because as soon as she got home she would receive sound beating and this continued and one day she was beaten so hard that she died and the man was so alarmed, he called for the neighbors ,oh please come and help. Pray for her and they said to him, this is a police case, now she is dead. You get down on your knees and cry to God and this hard heathen man

knelt down and began to cry to God and his wife lived, that was the end of the persecution in her home.

Folks, here the lord Jesus Christ speaks about persecution which ariseth for the word sake, immediately they are offended. Just think of it; somebody smirks; somebody says you have become a sissy, oh! you know ,this is the way to go, you are missing out on life or some such stupidity and you are not able to face it as a man. Well, you know we are fools for Christ's sake and Paul was counted a mad man. In fact, the lord Jesus Christ was. He is mad and hath the devil they said and should they say that about us, should we be so full of consternation? Should we turn tail and flee? No, not at all. So this hardness of heart which does not bring forth any fruit; friends, we should be very strict with ourselves. Is our Christian profession producing changes in society? The youngest of my children, she said to me, especially when I am having to face, take on the government in fact by being totally outspoken where people are afraid to speak, in a situation which is almost like a police state. She said, Dad, the very fact that the government is afraid of people getting converted, what does it show? It shows that they are alarmed, that there is something taking place. Can't you see that? Yes indeed. My dear friends when we are taken for granted, we can be sure that our prayer life is in telling. When everything seems to run pretty smoothly and no ruffled feathers, nobody who is deeply offended at the truth. It only shows we are playing into the hands of the devil. We are keeping at a respectable and conformity to the world so the world is not too troubled about us. It's a sad day, I want to tell you, when you can be just taken for granted. Here the lord Jesus Christ also tells us why such a condition befalls us.

Mark 7 and 21:- For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders. You know some time ago, I heard chat rooms. I never went into the chat room on a computer; a bunch of idle fellows may do that. But when I heard my son preach about chat rooms, it touched so many people in a great congregation. They said "this is where we spend so much of our time". You know, 60 year old or 70 year old fellows making love to a 13 year old girl over a chat room telling her; she is bright, ruddy, handsome young fellow of 18. My dear friends, it's far past a joke. But that's the world. Some of you may be unaware about this, but you should be. And the lord Jesus Christ said, out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, evil designs, evil plans. Now therefore, here the lord Jesus tells us that they receive the word with gladness and have no root in themselves and so endure but for a time.