

## **THE CASE OF A HARD HEART**

### **PSALM 95: 7-11**

Introduction:

You are responsible for the condition of your heart. If your heart is “hard”, it is because you have chosen to harden it. Since the heart is the center of your being, and includes your “will”, to harden the heart is to set your will against God. It is to choose to do things your way instead of God’s way.

The psalmist isolates one historic situation to illustrate this truth. He reminds the nation of the experience at Rephidim. The people of Israel were fresh out of Egyptian bondage. They had witnessed a mighty display of the greatness of God as He humbled the powers of Egyptians until they released Israel from bondage. They had watched a display of the power of God as He opened a way for them through the Red Sea. They had just tasted the goodness of God as He began to feed them with manna morning by morning. Then they met a new crisis—their water supply was exhausted and none could be found.

This shortage of water created a crisis of faith for them—would they trust God or would they take matters into their own hands? Israel made a tragic choice—they decided against trusting God, and rebelled against him. Moses

records of the incident, “And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the Lord among us or not?” The consequence of this choice on the part of Israel is warning to all of us—we do not want to be another case of a hard heart.

- I. THE HARD HEART CAUSES SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS.
- II. THE HARD HEART GRIEVES GOD.
- III. THE HARD HEART FORFEITS THE PROVISIONS OF GOD.