



... Heart to Heart ...

One major danger we face is taking on the attitude of complacency. It happens as the word of God loses its effectiveness in our heart. We drift and get lazy toward God and His word.

In Matt. 13:53-58, Jesus began preaching in His hometown. The people asked the right question, they looked in the wrong direction. They took offense at His teachings (v.53-57)! What happened next was a major lesson to teach us about the seriousness of not allowing God’s word to be effective in us. He did nothing for those people because of their unbelief (v.58)! They refused to listen and heed. Jesus was looking at their heart’s attitude toward Him and His word and because of their lack of a response, He saw no further need to help! When one stops responding to God’s word, they enter the world of unbelief.

God does the same with us. When God’s word is spoken, God is looking at our attitudes and desires and that determines if God will allow us to move forward spiritually or stop. The same happened in Heb. 3:16-19. The people heard, but didn’t take God’s word to heart. It led them to God swearing that they would not be able to enter into His rest! It can happen to us too. “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.” (Heb. 3:12) The words “*fall away*” literally mean “to stand off from.” When one stops responding to God’s word, that’s what they are doing, “standing off” from God.

I’ve seen over the years, God’s people, actively involved in His work, caring about His things to end up with nothing as far as God is concerned I’ve seen elders, end up in such ungodly attitudes and destroy themselves because God’s word has little place within their heart. Deacons, men who are to be faithful to God’s teachings and service, no longer seem to care about spiritual matters. Preachers, who proclaimed the messages of God, end up destroying their own lives as well as many in the church.

People destroy themselves when they stop responding to God’s word. They slowly drift until one day; it shows up in their personal lives. Lazy, unresponsive attitudes kept Jesus from working among the people. (He called it unbelief!) These same attitudes kept Israel from the promises of God. It can happen to us if we aren’t careful.

God’s intention is to save those who believe and continue to believe in the message (I Cor. 1:21). When one believes, they will act upon His word within their heart. When unbelief sets in, they won’t act upon the word. It’s just words! What about us? Are we really serious about God and His word, or just hearers that delude ourselves (Jam. 1:22-24)? The outcome can be devastating. Think about it!!!

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