

14 Sep 2014: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

Topic: **Life of Christ: Grieved for Hardened Hearts**

Scripture Text: Mark 3:1-12

1. The Bible tells us in v.5 that the Lord Jesus was grieved for the hardened hearts of the multitudes around Him. This was one of the few times that Jesus' feeling was revealed for us to know. The multitudes consisted not just the Pharisees, Herodians but all kinds of people who followed Jesus.

2. Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath day and there was man with a withered hand in the synagogue. The people were all watching what Jesus would do to this man. They were all ready to find fault with Jesus.

3. Jesus asked the people a simple question to do good or evil and to save life or kill life on the Sabbath day. It was an obvious answer but the people refused to answer Jesus. Jesus was angry with them. The first mark of a hardened heart is one of a legalistic mind. The people were so bound by their own rule and tradition that no work should be done on the Sabbath day. They rather keep their own traditions than to show compassion and mercy on the needy.

4. The 2nd mark of a hardened heart is that of carnal desires. The people followed Jesus because they wanted to be healed physically. It was only for their own benefits that they seek after Jesus. A sincere follower of Jesus ought to be one that study the Bible as this is a true manifestation of following Jesus today.

5. The 3rd mark of a hardened heart is that of teaching the truth of God's Word but not born again at all. The demon-possessed people could shout that Jesus is the Son of God. Yet Jesus would not associate Himself with them. A true believer will never have a hardened heart.