

LESSON 4

HARDENING OF THE HEARTS

HEBREWS 3:1–19



1 Finish these sentences:

A stubborn animal refuses to (or insists on) . . .

A stubborn politician refuses to (or insists on) . . .

A stubborn coach refuses to (or insists on) . . .

A stubborn child refuses to (or insists on) . . .

A stubborn Christian refuses to (or insists on) . . .



Read Hebrews 3:1–19 and the following notes:

☐ 3:7–15 ☐ 3:12–14 ☐ 3:15–19

2 Why was God angry with the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings (3:7–11)?

3 Why is it important for us to listen to God (3:7–11)?

4 What is a hardened heart (3:8–15)?

5 How can we avoid turning away from God, as Israel did in the wilderness (3:12–14)?

It's easy to become insensitive to God. Spending a long time in a religious environment full of reminders about God can desensitize a person to God and his Word. That's what happened to Israel as they traveled to the Promised Land. Instead of consistently listening to God and obeying him, they stubbornly insisted on going their own way. The author of Hebrews wanted his audience to learn from Israel's bad example. He wanted the new and growing church to be aware of the danger of stubbornness and to do what they could to remain sensitive to God's voice. A vital relationship with God needs constant renewal.



6 For what reasons do people's hearts become hardened against God?

7 Why is it important for us to remain sensitive to God and his Word?



8 What do stubborn people refuse to do (or insist on) regarding their relationship with God?

9 What are the consequences of stubbornly refusing to do what God says?

10 What steps can a person take to renew his/her relationship with God?

11 What barriers will a person have to overcome to keep a close relationship with God?

12 What might be some personal warning signs of a growing hardness of heart?

13 In what area of your life do you tend to take God for granted?



14 What will you do to maintain a sensitivity to God and a willingness to obey him?

A In what ways are Jesus and Moses alike (3:2–5)? How is Jesus greater than Moses (3:1–6)? What dangers exist when we confuse the servants of God with God himself? How can you follow your spiritual leaders without idolizing them?

B Who is God's household (3:2–6)? What does it mean to be a part of his household?

C What parallels exist between the challenges experienced by the people in Moses' day and the challenges we face today? What parallels can you find between the work Moses did for the people of Israel and the work Jesus did for the world?

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