

School of the Heart

Tough times develop our heart and character. The school of the heart is the school of hard knocks.

- Acts 13:22 God and David
- 1 Sam. 16:6-13 David chosen

What did God see in David?

I. A tender heart

- David was a sheep keeper.
- Sheep-keeping is hard:
 - Sheep are dumb
 - Sheep roll in their own dung
 - Sheep can eat too much and die!
 - You must lead them! Never drive.
- Sheep-keeping required a tender heart from David.
- God refers to people as His sheep.

David went to the school of hard knocks but developed a tender heart. **Are these hard times hardening your heart or tenderizing it?**

II. An obedient heart

- 1 Sam. 17:17-18, 20
- James 1:22
- John 14:23
- 1 Jn. 2:17
- Proverbs 10:17

Obedience and submission to God's authority are a requirement to be used by Him. One must have His heart, but so many are rebellious.

As David attended the school of hard knocks, he had developed an obedient heart.

Are these hard times causing you to be rebellious or obedient?

III. A heart hungry for Him

- 1 Sam. 17:26 defend God
- David wrote 73-75 of the 146 Psalms.
 - A journey: Ps. 3:3-4, Ps 4:1, Ps. 5:1-3, Ps. 9:1-2, Ps. 16:1-2, Ps. 18:1-3, Ps. 19:14,

Ps. 23: 1-6

Whatever you hunger after, you become. A hungry heart is vital to knowing Him. David spent a lot of time alone, facing danger with no one to turn to but God. He was hungry for Him.

In these hard times, are you hungering after Him more? Or filling your heart with other things?

IV. A forgiving heart

- 1 Sam. C19 Saul after David
- 1 Sam. 24:16-19 David given opportunity

Our God is a forgiving God. And David, though in the school of hard knocks, developed a forgiving heart.

In these hard times, are you developing a forgiving heart, or are you walking in unforgiveness?

V. Heart of compassion

- 2 Sam. 9:1-12

Our God is a God of compassion. David, though in the school of hard knocks, had a compassionate heart.

During these hard times (our school of hard knocks) has your heart become more compassionate?

God saw so many things in David's heart. He was far from perfect (adultery, murder) BUT also...

- Ps. 62:9- humble
- Ps. 18:3- reverent
- Ps. 31:9- respectful
- Ps. 27:1- trusting
- Ps. 18:1- loving
- Ps. 4:7- devoted
- Ps. 9:1- honoring
- Ps. 23:6- faithful
- Ps. 25:11- repentant

Today, we are in difficult times, the school of hard knocks BUT we can become bitter or BETTER!