

CLEAN HANDS
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INTRO: Last week I felt it appropriate to speak on the coronavirus by comparing it to what I called the sinavirus. On Monday I caught up with the news and listened to the president of the United States tell people how they were planning to tackle this issue. He had set out the vice president to look after this matter.

They had enlisted businesses like Wal-Mart and numerous others to help with things like the need for places to park health clinics. Top American health officials spoke to the issue and answered reporter's questions, and one thing caught my attention in particular, and a passage of Scripture came to mind. Over and over the doctors stressed the washing of the hands.

Well the passage that came to my mind was, Psalm 24:3-4. Listen to it:

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Clean hands and a pure heart, what a goal for the Christian! So the message title is "Clean Hands." This message would be appropriate any time but it might be better understood now. Clean hands, what a need for those who are not ready to die! Well, right now, in the world, clean hands has become a very big thing. People are even wondering what will happen to the age old practice of shaking hands after this. To avoid transferring the coronavirus to oneself, people refrain from shaking hands, and the question is, will it bring the practice to an end?

So we want to look at the great questions in this text and then the divine answer.

I. TWO GREAT QUESTIONS

A. Who May Ascend?

Verse three asks two very important questions. The first one is, Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? What makes this a great question? Well, we ask, what is hill is the hill of the Lord? Well, God had created man. Man sinned and became extremely sinful and so God destroyed all but eight people, and with them He began anew. That was a lesson that remains with mankind until today.

Then some time later God called one family, and of them He made a nation, and in the land He gave to that nation is 'the holy hill.' That nation, of course, was Israel, and that hill is the place where Solomon built a house for God on the hill of Mount Moriah. It is the place where Abraham had offered his Son Isaac. It is up this hill Jesus went just before He was nailed to the cross.

Now after this temple, or house of the Lord was built on this hill, three times a year every Jewish male was required to come here to worship the one true God. This happened in the three festive seasons of Israel that God had set out for them. And three times a year they would ascend this holy hill, singing the hallel, or praise Psalms.

And the question is: "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?" Who has the right to go to the holiest place that has ever existed on earth, the place where God dwelt between the cherubim in the Holiest Place on earth? Who? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Albert Barnes comments of this holy hill like this: "Mount Zion; called the hill of the Lord, because it was the place designated for His worship, or the place of His abode... The idea here is, 'Who shall ascend there with a view of abiding there? Who is worthy to dwell there?' The question is equivalent to asking, What constitutes true religion? What is required for the acceptable worship of God? What will prepare a person for heaven?"

What is happening today, because of the possibility of unclean hands, is the closing of borders. Right now some countries have closed their borders to some other countries entirely because they do not want this disease to enter their country.

And if they let anyone in, they must be quarantined first. They must be shown to be clean first. Before God's people, who ascended the hill of the Lord to worship, they were to be self quarantined. Why? God did not want contamination on His hill. His house was on this hill, and this is where He dwelt. Oh that we might get a fresh glimpse of the holiness of God.

Ascending this hill to worship might be likened to the practice of communion in church. Before the Christian goes to communion he is to examine his own life and if there is undealt with sin, that is to be cleaned up before one goes to communion. The Apostle Paul said that some in his day had died because they approached God at communion with unclean hands (1 Corinthians 11).

I believe in always attending church in holiness. The NT instructs believers to greet one another with a holy kiss. In NT times, that was the common way of greeting one another, as is also the practice in some counties today as well. But I believe, we could apply that as greeting one another with a holy handshake. Two ways of the most sure ways of communicating the coronavirus are the handshake and kissing.

Now what is the difference between a holy kiss or a holy handshake and an unholy one? If one greets a fellow Christian when one has unconfessed and undealt with sin; if one has practiced sin during the week and it has not been repented of and greets another Christian with a handshake on Sunday, that is an unholy, or contaminating handshake. The same holds true for a kiss.

Today we are very concerned about contamination, physically. But we show little concern with contamination spiritually.

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord or stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

B. Who May Stand?

The second question of our text is, "Who may stand in the holy place?" Well, what was this holy place? Well, it was the place where God lived with Israel. After Israel had come up out of Egypt, and Solomon was king, he built a house for the Lord. Here the tabernacle that had come with them from Mount Sinai came to rest. It would move no more. And here, on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, God dwelt with His people. Here they would come to worship. Three times in the year, thousands upon thousands of worshippers would ascend this holy hill and they would stand in the holy place, the temple mount.

Now some translations do not say, "Who may..." but "Who shall ascend...who shall stand..." The one who ascended the holy hill should self-quarantine before he or she ascends this holy hill. One should not go up unless one is clean. One might do it, but one should not. One must determine oneself if one is clean. If one has known sin one should take care of that before ascending. If one is not clean, neither should one ascend.

There is a sense in which it was like attending a communion service. Here is what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:27-31 about attending communion service:

27 *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

29 *For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

30 *For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.*

If one partakes of communion when there is unconfessed sin, that is partaking with dirty hands and an impure mind. One should examine oneself. Those who ascended the holy hill and then stood in the holy place should have self-quarantined before they went up. Who shall ascend and who shall stand? Those with clean hands and a pure mind. Those who live in sin should self-quarantine before they go up. That means repenting and confessing sin and getting right with God and man before one goes up to worship.

II. THE DIVINE ANSWERS

A. CLEAN HANDS

Let us consider now the divine answer to the questions as to who may go up into the holy hill and who might stand in the holy place. The first is that the one who has clean hands has the right to ascend up the holy hill. Well, let us consider this matter of clean hands. Our text asks this question: Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? The first answer given is, the one who has clean hands has the right to ascend.

We are living in a time of an highly infectious disease. One may pick it up from someone else and pass it on to others, unawares. Because of this some countries today, that allow people in or back in, require either a quarantine or self-quarantining. They want to make sure that nobody enters who will bring the disease into the country. Surely that is the lesson of our text. When it comes to entering God's holy place, God wants only those to enter who have clean hands. When it comes to entering heaven, only those who are clean will enter.

Well, what do the hands of our text stand for? We know this does not literally mean washing their hands. It is a figure of speech. Clean hands speak of a clean life. With

viruses, the transfer often takes place via the hands. The hands in our verse are a figure of speech, known as metonymy. They speak of what we do. Clean hands speak of doing right; living right. Who has right to ascend the holy hill? Those who live right. Those who have clean hands are known in Scripture as saints. Saints are not special people among the saved. All the saved are saints. Being a saint has to do with cleanness or with holiness. The NT word for saint and holy and holiness all have the same root.

Now somebody will say, "Saints are not holy. I know a lot of people who profess to be Christians and they are not holy." Well, there are many, many who profess to be Christians who are not holy in any true sense of the word because they are not truly Christians at all. The large majority of professing Christians are like that. But it is not true of all. There is something very important to understand here. There is initial holiness and progressive holiness, let me explain. When one who has not been saved according to the Bible, one is not a saint. One is not holy to the Lord at all. Man's main problem is sin, and it is that which makes us unholy, or unclean. When we have sin, we are defiled; we are filthy, spiritually speaking; we are unfit to ascend the holy hill, we are lost. We carry spiritual viruses. And in the words of our text, such should not ascend the holy hill nor stand in the holy place.

Now when one understands how filthy and how dirty one truly is and conviction of sin sets in and one wants to be freed from sin, and one repents of one's sins and begins to live by faith; one has become positionally holy before the Lord. Sin has to be dealt with first. So what does being positionally holy mean? It means we have repented of our sins and God has cleansed us from sin by our repentance. At this point one stands clean before God.

But everyone who arrives at that point, if that person walks closely with God, which means living according to the

Bible, then one will learn that there is nothing good in oneself. As one progresses in holiness, one finds more and more things wrong in oneself, to which one was oblivious before. And then a battle sets in within. Satan begins to seek to draw one back into his clutches. And now one finds oneself in the greatest of all battles, the battle of the mind. The mind is what the Bible calls the heart.

And now, day by day one is to gain new victory after new victory over sins one might not have recognized before. That which one did not even view as sin before, now becomes exceedingly sinful. And day by day one has to learn to overcome one new area after another. The battle is huge. And so one might see another and say, "How can they call themselves a Christian?" Well, sometimes they are not really Christians at all. But they may be. Because they struggle and battle and fall, does not mean they are not Christians. This is what it means to become practically holy. In practical holiness, one learns to overcome sin. This is a life-long process. But though it is a life-long process, one should be overcoming one sin after another.

Those who have become holy initially, and those who are in the process of becoming holy, are all saints. We have this idea from the Catholic Church that only those who become exceptionally godly are saints and they are sainted after they have died. That is not biblical at all.

The Apostle Paul wrote numerous letters to churches. When he greets them in the opening words of his letters he often calls them saints. That means 'holy ones.' For example, he wrote to the church at Ephesus he said in the first verse:

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Well, if you study that letter you will find they had problems and Paul had to correct them. But they were saints. Clean hands are Christians who deal with sin and learn to grow in holiness. When we live in known sin, we do not have clean hands. I am now almost 70 years old and I have never seen a time when clean hands physically has become as important as it is today.

But in all my years I have never yet seen a time when there has been such a cry for spiritually clean hands. I have seen a few times when Christians were revived and they dealt with sin, and spiritual cleanliness became very important. And oh, what joy it caused to people, when their hands had been cleansed. They had confessed sins to one another. Those who had wronged others confessed and dealt with their sins and the joy that brings is amazing to see. Shy people, openly confess and give God glory. Oh, what joy it brings to Christians who have lived in sin when they clean up their lives.

So the Psalmist says:

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart...

We live in a time and in a country that is in the greatest need of a cleaning of the hands, spiritually speaking. The need begins in the church first, and with church leaders. We have that need in church leaders in our own community. We have that need among those who profess to be Christians. Then we have filthy hands as a nation. We condone sins of the very worst kinds, such as LGBTQ. And we have no conception of the pandemic we are furthering by our approval of such sinfulness.

B. A PURE HEART

But consider the second answer. The questions were who may ascend the hill of the Lord and who may stand in His holy place. The first answer was that it is the one who has clean hands. The second answer is that the one

who has a pure heart may ascend the holy hill and stand in the holy place. Oh what a huge word is this; a pure heart! Our question now is, what is a clean heart? Well, first, what is the heart? Earlier we said that the hands stand by metonymy for that which we do. So clean hands speak of righteousness, doing right. Most of what we do, we do with our hands, so the hands stand by metonymy for all that we do.

But what is the heart? Well, the heart speaks by metonymy of the mind. Neither the Hebrew of the OT nor the Greek of the NT has one word that means the mind, as we do in our language. The heart is the vital centre in our physical bodies; so by metonymy it speaks of the vital center of our spiritual nature. It is situated in the soul, which is not physical, and it here that all data processing in a human being takes place. This needs a whole message on its own.

The Greek of the NT is very precise in its language related to the mind. It gives us the various parts of the mind. There is the data processor, which is the *phreen*. Many NT words come from that word. Then there is the data storage area. That is the *nous* and many NT words come from that word. For example, the word 'to repent' comes from that word. It means to change the data stored in the mind.

Is the heart, the mind, important to this matter of the coronavirus? Certainly. Leaders of countries and doctors are very busy trying to educate their people on how to avoid this virus and what to do if they have contracted it. If the mind does not have the right information, a person may spread this disease to many others. Knowing what to do is one of the most important things there is to overcoming such pandemics.

Just so, the heart or the mind is crucial to ascending God's holy hill. Let me give an example. Let us say I have been taught there is no God. So I believe there is no God. Then I begin to wonder where everything came from. And I begin to research all I can find. What I

learn is that modern science cannot tell me whether what I have been taught is true or not. But science gives me tons of information that says there must be a God. All you have to consider is one cell in the body, of which it has trillions. And soon, everything I see tells me somebody must have made everything. Nothing material in existence can happen on its own. Logic can figure that out.

Then I begin to study religion. And finally I come to the book called the Bible. And I begin to study it. And in the first chapter it tells me how everything began. And I study further and find it tells me what is right and what is wrong. And my hunger grows to learn spiritual truth. And then one day I can no longer believe what I was taught. The evidence that there is a God is overwhelming. And then the Bible even tells me who that God is. And then I change my mind. Instead of having this belief in my mind, 'there is no god,' I have changed that and now believe, 'there is a God!' That is repentance. It is a *metanoia*, a change in the nous, the data storage part of the mind. That is one part of what is called the heart.

Who can ascend into the hill of the LORD? He who has a pure heart! How does one get a pure heart? By repenting, changing one's mind about one's sins! After I change my mind, after I repent to God for what I have believed and thought, the sins I once enjoyed, I can no longer endure. I have changed my mind. They are not good, they are sin! And I repent and change my mind. And day by day now I learn to clean my hands and purify my mind. Oh what peace dealing with sin brings!

Now what is a 'pure' heart? It is one where all known sin is dealt with. And here is what I can tell you. He who has a pure heart will have clean hands! That is where clean hands come from. Turn to Mark 7. Jesus was dealing with this matter. Jesus was dealing with the religious Jews. Their religion was external. It did not come from the heart.

We begin in verse 1:

1 *Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem.*

2 *Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault.*

3 *For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders.*

4 *When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.*

Now there is nothing wrong with washing the hands when you come from town or when you come in from working. But to the Jews, it was an external rite, and they thought doing the externals made one clean on the inside. We are in a time when we are very concerned about the externals, and rightly so. But we are not concerned because it affects our spiritual lives. We are concerned about externals because it will affect us physically. The Jews did all their washings, thinking it cleansed the inside. But it was nothing but religiosity. So they did not only wash their hands, they washed them in a special way. So when they saw Jesus' disciples eating with unwashed hands our passage says this:

5 *Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"*

Well, Jesus knew the hearts of these people. And this is how the passage goes on:

6 *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

7 *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

Now Jesus calls them hypocrites. That means they were doing these external things, but in their hearts, or minds they were nothing like they made it appear on the outside. You see, many professing Christians today are like that. So Jesus proceeded to show them why He called them hypocrites and how they made the Word of God powerless by their hypocritical lives.

Jesus then, having talked to the Pharisees, called all the people to Himself and began to explain some things. So we continue in verse 14:

14 *When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand:*

15 *"There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.*

16 *"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

Now Jesus is not saying that there is no physical food which when it enters a person can defile his physical body. There are many things that can defile the body. But nothing you eat of everyday food can make your heart impure. The lessons one learns from washing the hands have a spiritual message, not a physical one. One learns from the physical how important the internal is.

Today the stress of washing one's hands is very high. If ever we should learn a lesson from that spiritually, it is today. But how many will even think of this lesson?

We go on in verse 17:

17 *When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable.*

Well, even the disciples were puzzled by what Jesus had said. Verse 18:

18 *So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,*

19 *"because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?"*

If one eats with unwashed hands, it cannot defile us spiritually. Why? Because it does not enter the heart. That which enters the heart, or our mind, that is what defiles us, not physically, but spiritually. There are two immaterial parts to man; the soul and the spirit. This is what we must keep clean. This is what clean hands speak of.

Think of all we allow into our eye gate and our ear gate, all that goes into the mind which is filthy and vile and sinful. Our government that is now so concerned about the coronavirus, promotes the most horrifying sins; abortion, LGBT, gambling and more.

Many think that what they do externally is what makes them spiritually clean. For example, if I get baptized, or if I read the Bible or pray or go to church, this makes me clean. It doesn't. As good as these things may be, that is not what cleanses us. If I read the Word of God and then obey Him because I want to do what is right and I want to do it with the right motivation, that is what it means to be clean.

Baptism by water pictures being raised to newness of life. It pictures having been cleansed spiritually. I should be cleaned up spiritually before I get baptized. Being baptized so that baptism will clean us up does not work. Only if that which it pictures is real, is it of value. Baptism is to show that which has happened spiritually already. If one is not spiritually born again, baptism does no good at all. It is the heart, or should I say the mind, that is most crucial.

Now why is that which is spiritual so very important? Well, Jesus continued His answer like this:

20 *And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.*

21 *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

22 *"thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.*

23 *"All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

You see, before the hands do something, the mind has already decided to do that. That is where it starts. That is why a person is the way he thinks. So the Psalmist said: Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? He who has clean hands. And what causes one to have clean hands? The mind. What one thinks one is. So Scripture says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Our hands do what our minds tell them to do. So Jesus said, from inside, out of the mind proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

We could spend several messages right there. Why does a person steal? It is not because of what he eats, it is because of how he thinks. Where does pride originate? In the mind. It is I, I, I. An evil eye, what is that? It is an eye that looks where it shouldn't. And why does it do that? Because of what is in the heart.

Who may ascend the Lord's holy hill? He who has clean hands. And how is it that he has clean hands? It is because of what is in his or her heart. Oh what stress we place on having clean hands now because of this present virus. Oh that we would make the transition to see how important clean hands are in the spiritual realm. But in the spiritual realm we allow for every kind of defilement and not only wink at sin, but we promote spiritual pandemics, like the LGBT pandemic. Oh how sinful, and oh how we turn a blind eye.

[[It is an amazing thing to me that God has chosen faith as that which pleases Him. Faith is a mighty powerful thing. That is why those who profess that the Bible is their guide are persecuted. You do not have to persecute that which you do not fear. It is amazing how we turn a blind eye to sin. That is part of what is meant by the evil eye Jesus spoke of. Then we have filthy

hands. That means we do sinful things. But not only do we not condemn sin, we condone it.]]

Who shall ascend into the Lord's holy hill? Those who have clean hands and a pure heart! And how do you get a pure heart, for if one has a pure heart one will have clean hands. That is where they come from.

Consider James 4:8. He says,

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Today we talk about social distancing. Christians should be familiar with social distancing. The Bible talks about excommunication, which is social distancing by Christians from fellow Christians who live in unconfessed sin. It is related to the spiritual, not the physical. And why should Christians practice social distancing from those who live in gross sins? Paul answers this in 1 Corinthians 5. If that is not done, sin, like leaven, creeps into the whole church. Sad to say, churches today do not practice social distancing for sin. It is because they are oversaturated with what they call love.

But there is something far worse that sin does. By living in sin we don't only distance ourselves from God, we may even isolate ourselves from Him. That is the state of all who do not truly know God.

But James is speaking to professing Christians. They are drawing away from God. How? By soiling their hands which happens because they have allowed impurities into their minds. And when believers draw away from God, James instructs them to draw near to God once more.

And just how does one do that? Well, first he says, "Cleanse your hands, you sinners." Who shall ascend into the Lord's holy hill? He who has clean hands. That is how one gets near to God as well. And then he says, "Purify your hearts, you double-minded."

James mentions being double minded twice. Literally the word is two souled. It is as if a man has two souls and one wants one thing and the other another. In another passage James says a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. So is a Christian who is drifting away from God. And the advice James gives to double minded people is, cleanse your hands and purify your minds.

Consider once more Albert Barnes comments of this holy hill of the Lord once more: "Mount Zion; called the hill of the Lord, because it was the place designated for His worship, or the place of His abode... The idea here is, 'Who shall ascend there with a view of abiding there? Who is worthy to dwell there?' The question is equivalent to asking, What constitutes true religion? What is required for the acceptable worship of God? What will prepare a person for heaven?"

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in the holy place? Barnes says that is like asking, "What constitutes true religion? What is required for the acceptable worship of God? What will prepare a person for heaven?"

Religion is what one believes about God, or how the universe came into being and how one is to live. Religion is spiritual in nature. True religion is the true belief, which we base on the Bible. What is true religion? It is determined by the heart, or as we say it, the mind. True religion produces a pure heart which produces clean hands. It is not produced by what one eats or does not eat.

What is required for acceptable worship to God? It has to be inner truth. One cannot truly worship God and live in sin at the same time. I know a good number of professing Christians, even some in leadership, who profess all the right things with the mouth, but they have sin in their lives. Their heart is not right. An Israeli like that might fool people and ascend God's holy hill, but he cannot offer acceptable worship to God. God does not receive such worship.

And last, Barnes says that clean hands and a pure heart prepare one for heaven. In the book of Genesis we have the account of Israel leaving Egypt, after having been in bondage for many years. It is a picture of being saved from the bondage of sin. Sin is a taskmaster.

And then God opened the Red Sea, and it pictured death, burial and resurrection. And when they were on the other side, and Pharaoh and his army had drowned in the Red Sea, they traveled to Mount Sinai. And there God gave them the law and instructed Moses on how to build a dwelling place for God so He might go with them.

And this tabernacle was the place of worship for Israel until they came to the promised land, and then that house was set up in the holy hill our text speaks of. Some years ago my wife and I and a daughter and her husband traveled to Israel. We went to the tip of the Red Sea, to the city of Eilat. I'm not sure if it was on the way to Eilat or back, when we stopped at the place where Solomon had his copper mines. And in the desert, close to the mines, a replica of original size of the tabernacle is set up. And we could see it from quite a distance because of one outstanding feature, and that was a white fence.

The tabernacle has a white fence around it, made of curtains, and it has only one gate. The gate represents the way to God. God dwelt inside the fence. But to get to Him, which only the High Priest could do, and only once in a year, he had to go into the tabernacle. There was the first room called the Holy Place. Then between that first room and the second is a thick veil, and it leads into the inner room. And that is where God traveled with Israel.

Now the white fence pictures that only those with clean hands and a pure heart have access to God. And in a sense it pictures that only by righteousness can one enter heaven. No unsaved person, no person who has not been born again, will ever enter heaven. And there is only one way. The world finds this absolutely unacceptable. And until they find it acceptable, they will never

come to God for cleansing. Until they truly find God, they have unclean hands and an impure heart. There is only one way.

CONCL: Well, today we have the coronavirus pandemic. It is a universal problem. But ever since the Garden of Eden, we have had the sinavirus problem. Why are we so concerned about the coronavirus? Because it can affect our physical well-being, and for some, it takes their life.

But why are we not concerned about the sinavirus? Because we are not concerned about our spiritual lives. We are spiritually blind. We do not see that sin's many forms of viruses will destroy our soul and damn us to an eternal hell. We live in sin and infect others without even knowing we have the virus. And behind the scenes is one very evil angel who became the devil, and he feeds on sin. He loves sin. And he loves to destroy people with it.

Here is what God told the people in the OT: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. Here is what the book of Hebrews tells people in the NT. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. A hardened heart is a mind that rejects the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit. This is a pandemic among mankind and it is high time to wake up! Repent and believe the Gospel, those are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ!