

I Will Help You

Pastor Craig Sweeney | January 19, 2025

Key Verse: “...I will help you.” **Isaiah 41:13 NIV**

Thread: God wants to help you, but do you want God’s help?

“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, you worm Jacob, little Israel, do not fear, for I myself will help you,’ declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. ‘See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the wind will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away. But you will rejoice in the Lord and glory in the Holy One of Israel. The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.” **Isaiah 41:13 – 20 NIV**

- **God wanted to help His people in significant, life-changing ways.**
- **You and I have been handed the same invitation they were given.**

Did the people of God respond by giving their hearts to God for this work? Some YES and many definitely NOT in the years that followed. WHY not? Simple answer, the hardness of their hearts.

Mark 8 gives us an insight into the hardening of the heart and its effects:

“...They were totally amazed, for they still didn’t understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.” **Mark 6:51 – 52 NLT**

- **They saw the miraculous, but it did not change them.**

How often do we see the miraculous in someone else’s life and walk away unchanged?

How often do we see the work of God in someone else’s life and walk away a little jaded because it was not our miracle?

“But the disciples had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, ‘Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.’ At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, ‘Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don’t you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in? You have eyes—can’t you see? You have ears—can’t you hear? Don’t you remember anything at all? When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?’ ‘Twelve,’ they said. ‘And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?’ ‘Seven,’ they said. ‘Don’t you understand yet?’ he asked them.” **Mark 8:14 – 21 NLT**

Hardness of heart keeps people from receiving God’s...

Invitation
Forgiveness
Healing and restoration
Friendship
Wisdom
Blessing and favor
Miraculous
Church

So, what are we to do?

“...Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts...”

Hebrews 3:15 NLT

Challenge:

- Soften your heart towards God. Trust Him and what He wants to do in you?
- Ask forgiveness for hardening your heart towards Him.
- Put yourself in the places where God can speak to you.
 - Daily Chair Time.
 - Lean into the Church.