Villains of the Bible - Pharaoh

Pastor Mark Wilks, Romans 9:14-24

1. The Person: Pharaoh

- Pharaoh considered himself a god and was worshiped by the people.
- The theme of Exodus is God is the <u>sovereign</u> Lord! Only the Lord can rescue, deliver or <u>save</u> His people!
- We ask, "Is God unfair to Pharaoh?" When the bible says, "God hardened Pharaoh's heart."

2. The Problem: Pharaoh's heart is hardened

- A hard heart is an obstinate and calloused heart that fails to respond to or obey God.
 - o God says, "He will harden Pharaoh's heart." Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 14:4
 - o "God hardened Pharaoh's heart." Ex. 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:8, 17
 - o "Pharaoh's heart was hardened." Ex. 7:13,14, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 35, 14:5
 - o "Pharaoh hardened his own heart." Ex. 8:15; 8:32; 9:34
- Pharaoh's heart was hard from the start. Ex. 5:2
- The clay has within it all the properties to become hard.

3. Our Promise: Only Christ can soften our heart. Mark 6:52

- God doesn't need to <u>harden</u> my heart, I need him to <u>soften it</u>.
- "Faith is not something that happens <u>automatically</u> or evolves <u>inevitably</u>; it is a personal <u>decision or choice</u>." J.R. Edwards

Application

- 1. If you have sin in your life <u>repent now</u> while there is still time.
- 2. If you are resisting God in any area of your life, surrender now!
- 3. The only way to keep a soft heart is to walk humbly with your God.