

**Go and Tell This People**



## **HARD SOIL**     Isaiah (Chapter 6)...

- realizes the **disparity** of his own life and receives forgiveness
- is moved/motivated to **witness**  
    “Go tell this people”
- is **warned** that the soil into which he must sow will be very HARD soil
- is told that he is **expected** to “keep witnessing” anyway.

“Make the heart of this people calloused”... an odd way to put it!

1. LXX (250 B.C.) translates this passage as indicative rather than hortatory

i.e. “the heart of this people has become calloused”

2. Describes an **existing** condition not a **desired** condition.

Expresses **result** rather than **purpose**

The reality of spiritual conflict within people is such that the very **proclamation** of the gospel causes some to **harden** their hearts.

**CATALYST** (chemistry) – causes or accelerates a reaction without itself being affected

- stimulant
- impetus
- incentive
- motivation

I did not come to judge the world but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not receive my words; **THAT VERY WORD** which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

*(John 12:48)*

## **Acts 11:18**

- Before God gave Peter a vision and a conversion experience with Cornelius, Peter believed all Gentiles to be incapable of **grasping** and **receiving** the gospel.  
They were soil that was too hard!
- Afterward, they said, “Wow! **Even** the Gentiles can be saved!”

Someone you love? “even \_\_\_\_\_”

## HEALTHY CROP (*Acts 11*)

- 19 – Some witnessed only to those they felt were worthy or most likely to listen
- 20 – “However” others planted seed in dubious soil (Greeks, Syria)
- 21 – Polytheistic Greek people accepted Christ as Savior!

**DUBIOUS** – of doubtful quality;  
questionable; of uncertain outcome

**11:22** News of this reached the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and ENCOURAGED THEM ALL TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE LORD with all their hearts.

Christian witness has two parts.

- 1) Sowing **seed**
- 2) Watering **plants**

DO NOT GIVE UP ON HARD SOIL. The power to sprout is contained in the seed itself!

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the POWER OF GOD for everyone who believes...”

*(Romans 1:16)*