

**Main Point:** The more we focus on ourselves, the less space there is in our lives to love God and love the people God blesses us with, especially our spouse if we're married.

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Matthew 11:16-19 and other verses (Mark 4:10-12 for instance) cite that when we become repeatedly unresponsive to God's leading in our life, it impacts our ability to see what's true and real. This condition is called hardness of heart. Refusing to be open to God's leading is what caused religious groups like the Pharisees to see the miracles, signs and authoritative teaching of Jesus personally and still not believe in Him.
2. Unforgiveness, past relational issues, an inability to be vulnerable, and other reasons contribute to this condition in marriages. Hardness of heart is one of the ultimate reasons why a couple can say "I do" and years later face divorce.
3. The Christian who remains open to God's leading and responds rightly to "spousal accountability" works to prevent hardness of heart occurring in their marriage. Regardless if you are single or married, being intentional to listen and respond to God and others helps our hearts and minds remain pliable.
4. Pastor Trenton shared his story and ways he continues to let God keep his heart responsive. Let us all discuss ways to keep ourselves from having a hardened heart. What Jesus offers us is truly better than anything else we can make for ourselves!

**Scriptures to Consider:** Ephesians 5:21-33; Song of Songs 4:10-5:1; Matthew 19:1-12; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Proverbs 12:15

**Quotes to Consider:**

"To begin with prayer is a way to remind ourselves that only God changes hearts." -  
Dr. Christopher Yuan

"Being married means being in covenant with different versions of the same person. We've been married to numerous people...they've just looked the same." - Beth Moore

"Within this Christian vision of marriage, here's what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of what God is creating, and to say, 'I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, 'I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!'" -  
Dr. Tim Keller

"Before I understood how my own body worked, I was tragically exposed to other bodies at work. The images remain, and so do the messages." - Rich Villodas

**Resources to Consider:**

*The Meaning of Marriage* - Tim Keller  
*Faithful: A Theology of Sex* - Beth Felker Jones  
*Holy Sexuality* - Christopher Yuan  
*The Deeply Formed Life* - Rich Villodas