



**AN UNYIELDING HEART**  
**MARK 3:1-6**

**Do you have a child with fire in their soul?**



## **Do you have a child with fire in their soul?**

- Windy Wisner, “This is a kid who will not take “no” for an answer, not ever. This child’s motto is “It’s my way or the highway,” and this can be applied to every little detail of their life, from the way they insist their toast be cut up, to whether they will allow you to help them figure out their math homework (the answer is a very emphatic “No!”).

## **Do you have a child with fire in their soul?**

- “They insist on doing everything themselves — and I mean everything. They don’t want your help unless they personally and specifically ask for it. And they will take issue with anything they disagree with, even if they actually pretty much don’t know what the heck they’re talking about.”

## **Do you have a child with fire in their soul?**

- “For example, when one of my spirited sons was very small, this little conversation happened:”
  - Me: Honey, do you know what stubborn means?
  - Him: No, and I’m not learning it!

## **An Unyielding heart**

- In what areas of your life do you challenge Jesus?
  - Not just the Biblical Truth area
  - In what areas do you have an unyielding attitude?

## An unyielding heart

- **Unyielding** = not giving up control or responsibility for (something) as a result of influence or persuasion
  - Completely unwilling to change a decision, opinion, demand, etc.

## An unyielding heart

- This word is neither good nor bad, it depends upon what is being described and why
  - Unyielding faith in Jesus Christ
  - Unyielding heart of devotion to your spouse
  - But it could also describe a rebellious heart toward God

## An unyielding heart

- There is a difference between a hard-hearted heart and an unyielding heart
  - Hard hearted = incapable of being moved to pity or tenderness; unfeeling
  - **Exodus 9:12 NIV** But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.
  - Hardened = to make strong, to strengthen

## An unyielding heart

- There is a difference between a hard-hearted heart and an unyielding heart
  - God gave Pharaoh a strong heart to do what he wanted to do which was rebel against the work of God

## An unyielding heart

- There is a difference between a hard-hearted heart and an unyielding heart
  - Unyielding heart = is one who knows the will of God and yet refuses to be obedient

## An unyielding heart

- There is a difference between a hard-hearted heart and an unyielding heart
  - **Deuteronomy 1:26 NIV** But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.
  - There is the definition of an unyielding heart, it is a rebellious heart toward God

## An unyielding heart

- This also answers the question, “Why didn’t the religious leaders at the time of Jesus accept Him as Messiah?”
  - **John 3:1-2 NLT** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

## An unyielding heart

- This answers the question, “Why didn’t the religious leaders at the time of Jesus accept Him as Messiah?”
  - **Mark 3:5 NIV** He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn (unyielding) hearts
  - As we look at these scriptures this morning ask yourself the question, “Is this describing me in any way?”
  - **Mark 3:1-6**

**Paul Fritz**, “People who are inflexible remain firm in their opinions to a point of being stubborn, unyielding and adamant about their own viewpoint. The biggest problem with spiritual inflexibility is that one risks missing out on all the vital truths God wants us to learn.”

- The Pharisees were unwilling to admit they did not possess the complete/full truth
  - We got the Law and don't need anything else

## **May we never get to the point we think we have made it in our Christian understanding and walk**

- They were unwilling to admit they were in error and needed the life adjusting truth Jesus was attempting to teach
- They were unwilling to say, “Yes, Lord, may your will be done in me.”
- Jesus is our example here in the Garden of Gethsemane

**An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- **James 1:8 NLT** Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.
- They know Jesus, have accepted his salvation but stops at Lord of their lives

## **An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- So, Jesus is qualified to die for your sins
- but not qualified to be Lord of your life
  - Is he not smart enough?
  - Is he not powerful enough?
  - Is his authority lacking in any area?

**An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- Then why do you challenge his Lordship in your life?
  - Because you want that position in your life
  - In which you are not smart enough, powerful enough and without absolute authority

## **An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- They know the truth of God's word, but they stop at letting it condition the way they think and thus live
- They have their church life/friends/words and over here is their other life that is not a whole lot different than their worldly friends
- And they wonder where their peace is at

**An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- **James 1:22 NLT** Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.
  - They hold fast and obey the things they like and understand

## **An unyielding heart lives a double-minded life between the way of God and the way of the world.**

- We have forgotten that we are saved not just to be able to enter heaven, but to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ
  - **Romans 8:29a NLT** For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son
- Here you have what an unyielding heart/double minded life looks like

## **An unyielding heart refuses to answer Jesus, even when the answer is obvious**

- Jesus is giving them every opportunity to change their response to Him
- Every opportunity to accept his Lordship in their lives and in their religion

## **An unyielding heart refuses to answer Jesus, even when the answer is obvious**

- In the Law it was never right to do wrong
- The religious leaders were declaring it would be wrong to heal on the Sabbath because it is doing work that could be put off until the next day
- Jesus is saying would it be wrong to refuse healing this man's arm when I have the authority to do it, even if it is on the Sabbath?

## **An unyielding heart refuses to answer Jesus, even when the answer is obvious**

In the Law it was never right to do wrong

- Jesus is basically saying, “Which is the greatest wrong? To heal on the Sabbath or refuse to do something good in this man’s life by healing him, even on the Sabbath?”
- The answer is painfully obvious, yes you do good in this man’s life when you have the authority to do so

## **An unyielding heart refuses to answer Jesus, even when the answer is obvious**

- The religious leaders knew this, but they remained silent
- It's not what they want to hear
- There are times in an unyielding heart that the Word of God grabs them with truth they cannot deny, but they can ignore
  - So rather than argue they will be silent without obedience

## **An unyielding heart refuses to answer Jesus, even when the answer is obvious**

- Before you cast that stone, what of God's truth is painfully obvious to you, yet you refuse to apply it to your life?
- You ignore it, Find someone to interpret it the way you want, Just say it does not apply to today
- At times we are little Pharaohs

**Jesus is not intimidated by your unyielding heart. He is angry and deeply distressed/saddened/sympathy.**

- AMP grieved at the hardness and arrogance of their hearts
  - He is grieved at the arrogance in their hearts that they could say no to the authority and power God
  - I would rather have it my way than please the creator of my eternal soul

**Jesus is not intimidated by your unyielding heart. He is angry and deeply distressed/saddened/sympathy.**

- This is what sparks the anger in Jesus' life-how they are treating his Father
- Not how they are treating him, but how they are treating God the Father and His Law

**Jesus is not intimidated by your unyielding heart. He is angry and deeply distressed/saddened/sympathy.**

- God the Son is not intimidated
  - He has the man stand so all could see
  - He instructs the man to stretch out his hand
  - It was instantly healed the same as the other
- Jesus is not looking for a fight, but He will be Lord of all whether you agree or not

**So instead of allowing Jesus to be Lord and Master they went together with their hated enemies who also hated Jesus to conspire to kill him**

- So, it was not good to heal on the Sabbath, but it was good to conspire to murder someone
- This is exactly the circular thinking that happens in double-minded people

- **Romans 14:11 MSG** Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture: "As I live and breathe," God says, "every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God."

## **Where in your life are you refusing to yield to the Lord and His Word?**

- Maybe accepting your salvation and your sins are really forgiven
- Maybe the priorities in your life
- Maybe areas of morality and what you accept
- Maybe areas of pride/bitterness/unforgiveness...

# **Where in your life are you refusing to yield to the Lord and His Word?**

- You know what your areas are because the Holy Spirit will lead you to all truth
- The only question then is, will you let Jesus be the Lord of your life, your entire life, every area of your life?

## **Yes, Lord, Yes**

Yes, Lord, Yes

To your will and to your way

Yes, Lord, Yes

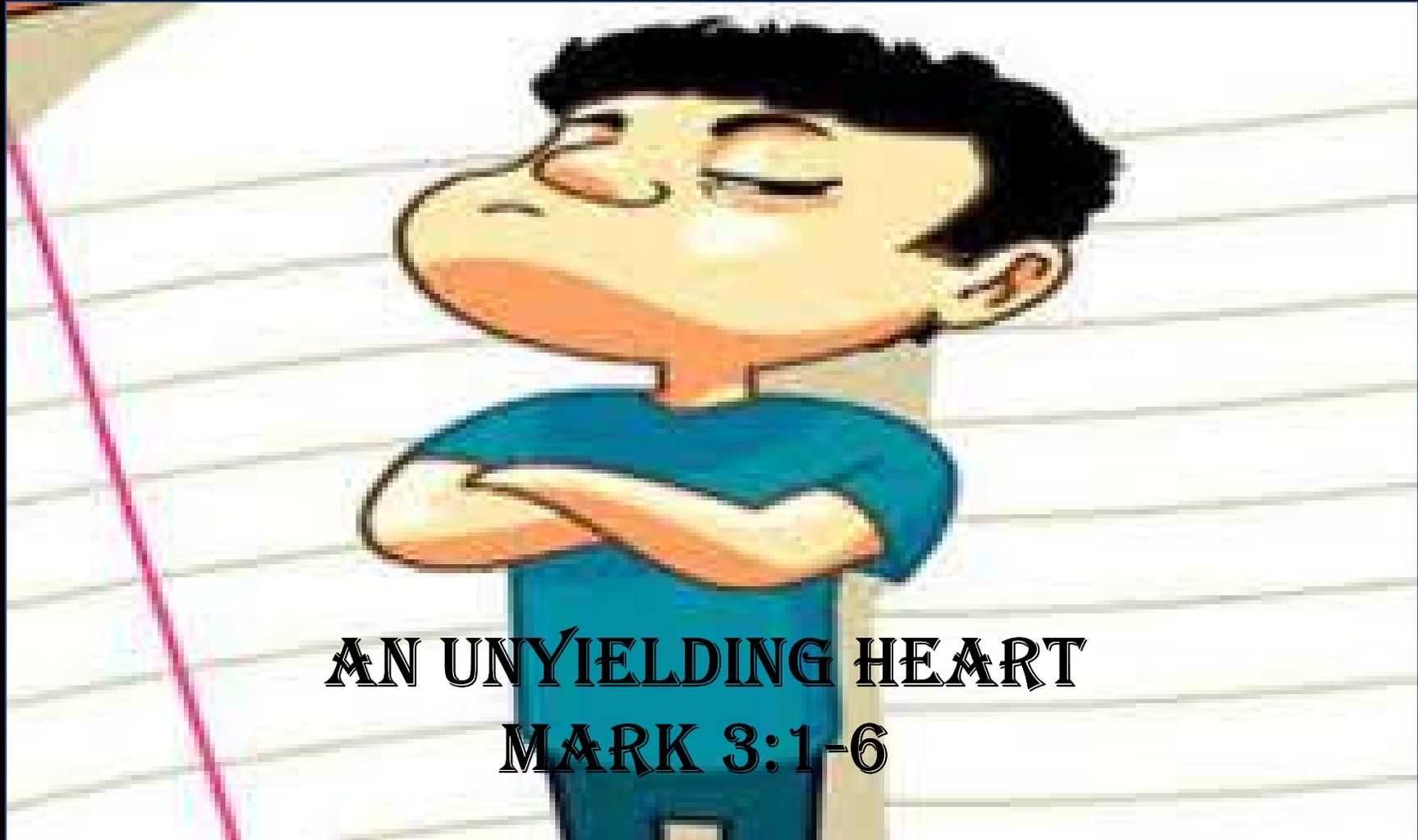
I will trust you and obey

When your Spirit speaks to me

With my whole heart I'll agree

And the answer will be

Yes, Lord, Yes



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**MARK 3:1-6**