



# Curious Case Of Cardiolithiasis

# Medical (Spiritual) Condition

Rom. 6:17 "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."

- Originally healthy, but hardened over time
- Dangerous spiritual condition

Psalms 81:11-12 "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me. 12 So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels."

- KJV "hearts' lust" = to hard hearted, stubborn

# Incidental Finding

- Mark 1:21 "Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught."
  - multiple accounts of Jesus entering synagogues (plural) and performing miracles and teaching Mk.1:29,39 2:1-13
- Mk. 1:28 "And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee."
  - eventually leading to throngs of people wanting the Master
  - Mk. 1:37 "When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

# Incidental Finding

- Mk. 3:1 "And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand."
  - no surprise as to the assumed crowd assembled- Jesus had performed miracles there before
  - Robertson "withered state is from accident, disease, or injury but not congenital"
- Mk. 3:2 "So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him."
  - cf. Matt. 12:10

# Incidental Finding

- Accuse Jesus of what exactly?
  - Ex. 20:11 "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."
  - Ex. 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."
  - breach of Sabbath etiquette, looking to find guilt
- Mk. 3:3 "And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."



# Incidental Finding

- Vs. 4 "Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"
  - difficult for them, not the common working class Jew
  - About the Sabbath? Importance? Or about the workings of the heart?
- The Pharisees' response? Vs. 4 "... But they kept silent."
  - "doctors of the law" suddenly baffled by the carpenter's Son
  - beginning to see clinical appearance of disease involving the heart

# Incidental Finding

- Vs. 5 "And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the **hardness of their hearts**, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other."
  - what wasn't heard gave the diagnosis
  - How many occasions do we read of the Master's anger?
  - focus attention back to the man, Jesus angered, is still able to heal the man completely
  - INCIDENTAL! Who amongst the assembled had the most grave condition?

# Incidental Finding

What would be the reasonable response of the witnesses of the miracle?

- Vs. 6 "Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him"
  - they knew and expected Jesus to heal the man
  - didn't plan on being called out for ignorance and hard heartedness
  - "destroy", not character assassination, but literal assassination



# Comorbidities and Treatment

- Having a stubborn, hard heart is spiritually life threatening in and of itself
  - **comorbidities** are defined as simultaneous presence of two chronic diseases or conditions in a patient
  - cascade effect, presence of one generally leads to or coincides with other serious conditions
- Matt. 15:12 "Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended..."
  - offended by how Jesus characterized defilement, within versus without (vs. 11)

# Comorbidities and Treatment

- C. and blindness Matt. 15:14 "Let them alone. **They are blind leaders of the blind.** And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."
  - as "teachers", leading others into perdition.
  - Matt. 23:24 "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"
  - keeping minute details, forgoing to keep the weightier matters (justice, mercy, faith)

# Comorbidities and Treatment

## Treatment- Accept the Truth

- Matt. 13:14-17
- both parties heard the same thing, one was blind, one saw and believed. What was the difference?
- the disciples accepted the evidence as it was right in front of them (no preconceived opinions). Pharisees blind to the Master's instructions, testimony of witnesses, and miracles.
- Peter's confession on behalf of all, Jn. 6:69 ("believe and know") and Jesus' own words Jn. 20:29.

# Comorbidities and Treatment

- C. and ignorance, unbelief can even occur in those that appear spiritually healthy. Mk. 16:14 "... and He rebuked their **unbelief and hardness of heart**, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen."
  - Mark 8:17-18 "But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? 18 Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?"



# Comorbidities and Treatment

**Treatment** daily Bible study with the correct motive

- Jn. 20:31 "...but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."
- 2 Tim. 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (for preachers only ?)
- ask God to help, Psalms 119:34 "Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart"



# Comorbidities and Treatment

- C. and arrogance/selfishness often symbiotic, can “feed” off one another.
  - why did the Pharisees not answer Jesus in Mark 3:4?
  - Luke 22:2 “And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people”
  - where was the focus? On the injured man or self?

**Treatment** daily, healthy doses of selflessness.

- 1 Pet. 1:22, change of our perspective?

# Comorbidities and Treatment

## Treatment cont'd.

- Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;"
- C.and hard thoughts rarely does end stage disease spontaneously occur. There are processes involved.
  - track of the Pharisees in Mark's Gospel
  - similarities with our attitude/treatment of others?
  - Thoughts do not remain mere thoughts for very long.

# Comorbidities and Treatment

**Treatment** nurturing a tender heart without fail changes the prognosis of a hardened heart.

- Phil. 2:3-5 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (indicator of tender heart)
- Phil.4:8
- one diagnosed with spiritual cardiolithiasis cannot think on, much less meditate on wholesome, good things.