

Notes on John 12:23-50

THE HARDENED HEART

The SHELL we build around our inner person to protect us, which prevents the seed of God's image in us from growing up to be like Him.

• John 12:23-25 *"Jesus said, 'The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. The truth is, a kernel of wheat must be planted in the soil. Unless it dies it will be alone—a single seed. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who despise their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'"*

• **Two deaths.** The shell around the soul is cracked open by two deaths:

(1) Jesus dying as a man on the cross to break the sin person and liberate the heart.

(2) Our choice to die to - face - tear down the walls we have built around our heart.

• **Seed of God.** Jesus compares that process to a seed being planted in the ground, where most of it dies so that what is trapped within - the life of the seed—can sprout, put down roots and grow up through the soil into the sun and become a fruitful plant or tree.

• **Shell and Wheat Germ.** The way I've come to understand this is that the seed has two parts. It has the shell and it has what is called the wheat germ. The wheat germ could be compared to the sperm impregnated egg of an animal or human. It is alive and can grow into what it is. It has to be planted and die so that the shell around it can be cracked open and dissolved by the soil and moisture so the wheat germ is free to grow. The release and growth of the "divine nature" in us is spoken of as *"being born again of imperishable seed."*

I Peter 1:23

The Shell Around the Heart

- Walling off the heart to avoid being hurt again
- Intentional blocking of the conscience to do bad.
- Decision not to trust, not feel, not try again.
- Decision to become reclusive.
- Decision to hang on to unforgiveness, blame.
- Mind made up - stick to wrong conclusions.

• *"I am like a **green olive tree** thriving in the house of the Lord. I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever." Psalm 52:8*

