Monday Carol and I decided to spend part of the day working in the yard getting the garden in a little better shape. One thing that we have discovered in Missouri which was a huge surprise was how hard the ground can get. I was trying to break up the harden clay in one section of the yard so that we could plant grass seed. It required a herculean effort with a shovel and rake to break up the harden clay and make it possible for the seeds to take root. I think that must have been the kind of ground God had in mind when he spoke of the hearts of the Israelites. Let's look at this verse together.

**Hosea 10:12** (NLT) I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

God was speaking to the nation of Israel. They had been prosperous for some time but they had worshipped idols rather than God. So this is a challenge to break up the hard ground of their hearts. To get their hearts ready to receive God's work in their lives. I wonder? Do we ever harden our hearts against God's Word? Do we ever refuse to allow God to plow up our hearts so that we will be ready to receive the Seed of His Word? The hardness of our heart will only be broken up if we truly seek after God and ask Him to soften our hearts.

**PRAYER:** Lord, God please break up the hardness in my heart. Help my heart to be soft and tender and ready to hear and obey. Please Lord, make me usable for you. Please Lord, I long to see a harvest of godliness in my life.

Pastor Mark Kieft