7. Note prodigal son—separated from father—life becomes meaningless, lonely, miserable. Father longed for him. So does God long for those who are so unconcerned.

8. Matt 23:27—How often God would have hovered over Jerusalem but ye would not.

9. God's concern finally climaxed in Calvary. Christ's heart broke as he looked over the mass of hardened Jews—"Father forgive them."

10. God yearns for us—you—to come to him.

CONCLUSION:
1. How can we heal the heartbreak in heaven?
3. Repentance and return to God will heal.
4. Obedience to His will will cause rejoicing in heaven.
5. LET US: Fill our heads with God's will.
   Fill our hearts with God's love.
   Fill our hands with offerings, with other souls.
   Fill our lives with love and with Christ.
6. May we put God first.

Vidor, Tex 11/3/48
9/12/74
5/2/76

Bridge City, Tex
8/3/82

Anahuac, Tex
5/17/92
HEARTACHE IN HEAVEN

INTRODUCTION:
1. When we think of God — Love, Mercy, kindness, grace, compassion, 
   longsuffering, goodness, etc.
2. We seldom consider God as capable of distress and heartache.
3. We are intensely aware of heartache on earth:
   Suffering everywhere — disease, sickness, divorce, broken 
   homes, loneliness, suffering of body and soul. . . 
   Heartache all around us, on all sides.
4. God, too, is capable of suffering — not only is He the God of 
   compassion, jealousy, anger, love — but also, we need to 
   see the nature of God that shows suffering, heartache.
   NOTE: Jesus weeping at his friend’s tomb — Lazarus.
5. Predicted God’s Father longing for his return.

WHAT BREAKS GOD’S HEART?!?!

People, particularly — God’s people break his heart.
Hosea understood heartache — had an unfaithful wife.
Through his own suffering he understood something of God’s 
   suffering over flock Israel.
Israel — his people — gone off after idols, the flesh.
Israel today —THE CHURCH — so often causing heartache in Heaven.
   Doesn’t take an Einstein to see that many members of 
   the church break their Father’s heart.
6. We often think of our own sorrow, our own hurts, our own 
   suffering; indeed, we seldom think of anything else 
   but, may we break the little cells of our own self-pity and 
   meditate on God’s sorrow — HIS HEARTACHE.

WHAT CAUSES GOD TO HAVE HEARTACHE IN HEAVEN?!?!

I. OUR EMPTY MINDS BREAK GOD’S HEART:
   1. Hosea 4:6 — “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”
   2. Willfull ignorance of His Word.
   3. In the world there is an appalling vacuum of Bible knowledge
   4. Time magazine gave 112 question Bible quiz — high school senior: 
   (1) Sodom and Gomorrah were lovers.
   (2) Gospels written by Matt, Mark, Paul, John
   (3) Jesus baptized by Moses, etc., etc.
5. And how often this problem slips into the church.
   Members who care little about Bible study, classes, often 
   limiting their religious intake to one hour a week, less
   SO UNCONSCIOUS — SURELY IT BREAKS GOD’S HEART.
7. WE NEED TO STUDY — 2 Tim 2:15; 1 Pet 3:15; Heb 4:11; Jas 1:25.

II. OUR EMPTY PENS BREAK GOD’S HEART:
1. of.
   Young preacher and family, last to leave building, 5 year 
   old daughter said, “Don’t the church look sad.”
2. An empty church and vacant pews break God’s heart.

III. OUR EMPTY HANDS BREAK GOD’S HEART:
1. First, we fail to give God the firstfruit of our energy, etc.
2. More money in savings spent in dressing and feeding of dogs 
   than given to churches. How about us? How do we spend
3. Problem NOT that we are poor in material things — RICH
   But this is a spiritual condition, spiritual sleep.
4. A faith in God that makes only a token offering, is so weak 
   it breaks God’s heart.
5. Second: we come empty-handed in a failure to WIN SOULS TO GOD
   “Let the preacher do that, he’s paid for it!” NOT SO!
   Acts 8:1-4 — each member accepted responsibility.
   “Do you mean to say that you brought no one with you? 
   Didn’t my love for you mean enough to you during all 
   these years to impel you to tell someone else?” 
   OFTEN even underdone about family; children, etc.
7. WE BREAK GOD’S HEART WITH EMPTY HANDS.

IV. OUR EMPTY LIVES BREAK GOD’S HEART:
1. So much of life is wasted; used so unwisely.
2. We set goals, attain them, find them meaningless, fruitless.
3. That for which we strive so diligently, find shallow, empty
4. Of. Shipwreck, safety to shore, hungry, etc.
   Box washed ashore, “Only someone’s pearls, money,”
5. Portuguese luxury liner Santa Maria left South America, for Europe.
   Hundreds of vacations, swimming pools, bars, etc.
   One night — pirates took over ship, killed/captain.
   Next morning — news spread, passengers lost interest in 
   entertainment, etc., anxiety now
6. Same sense of meaningless and anxiety in lives of those who 
   lose touch with God. Need a Letter at the helm of a ship
   What guide your ship? God or the storms?