



## desert breeze community church

**Teaching Notes:** Ray Davis

June 14, 2009

### Jesusology

Mark 6:45-56

#### “Hard Heartedness”

Why do we have a gap between our spirituality and our reality, between our beliefs and our behavior?

#### THE PROBLEM OF HARD HEARTEDNESS:

Mark 6:45-56

##### WHAT IS IT?

- **It is revealed in the storms of life.** v45 “he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side...” Both good times and bad times reveal our heart.
- **It is seen through inordinate emotions.** v49 “cried out” v50 “terrified”
- **It is a failure to apply my knowledge of God to my current situation.** 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

##### WHY DOES IT HAPPEN? (Mark 4:1-20)

- **Stubborn Heart (Pride)** – The illusion that I can find ultimate meaning apart from God. (Dan. 5:20)
- **Shallow Heart (Unbelief)** – The lie that God doesn’t have my best interest at heart. (Ps. 95)
- **Strangled Heart (Idolatry)** – The things other than God I look to for love, security and significance. (Ps. 16:4)

Added verses on Hard Heart:

Ex. 7:14; Pro. 28:14; Dan. 5:20; Zech. 7:12; Matt. 13:15

#### HOW TO OVERCOME IT?

*50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I (literally “I AM”). Do not be afraid.” 51 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded.*

It is the O.T. self-revelation of God (Ex. 3:14, 33:12-23). The disciples go from being afraid to being in awe of Jesus.

**Faith is reminding myself of who He is and acting upon who He is in practical situations.**

Pro. 28:14; 1 Tim. 4:7-8

- **God knows everything about me.** v48 “He saw that they were making headway painfully...” The reason the Lord may send you into a storm is to show his character and ultimately comfort you.
- **God is in control of my circumstances.** Jesus is Lord over all storms. The storm or flood was an ancient sign of chaos. Ps. 29 “God is enthroned over the flood.” Jesus is showing his power over any chaos.
- **God will never leave me or forsake me.** When he got into the boat, the storm abated and they made quick work of the rest of the journey. Separation brought distress; the Lord’s presence brought deliverance.

On the Cross Jesus suffered the ultimate storm for us so that we would never, ever, ever have to be afraid again! When you see and savor the ultimate cosmic approval of the God of the Universe above everything you can face anything!



# Growing

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1) What does it mean to have a gap between our spirituality and our reality, between our beliefs and our behavior? In what area(s) of your life do you struggle most with this gap?

2) Read Mark 6:45-56. What is the cause of this gap between our beliefs and behavior? How is hard heartedness revealed in our lives? Hard heartedness is a failure to apply my knowledge of God to what (v52)?

3) What is the cause of hard heartedness (Mark 4:1-20)? Identify the three kinds of hearts (soils) and the cause of hard heartedness for each one? Which one do you struggle with the most?

4) The fear of the Lord is not to be afraid of God but to be in awe and wonder of God. In verses 50-51 what was the disciple's initial response to Jesus and what was their end response? What was the cause of this drastic change? If I fear God I will fear nothing or no one (Pro. 28:14). Explain.

5) Faith is reminding myself of who God is and acting upon who He is in practical situations. Spiritual disciplines help us to increase our capacity in doing this (1 Tim. 4:7-8). Take time now to prayerfully meditate on the last three truths about God in this study and apply them to a current situation of your life.