

Hard Hearts

Mark 6:45-56

- I. Spiritual Depth – Jesus maintained intimacy with the Father through prolonged prayer (Mark 6:45-46).
 - A. Jesus sent the disciples away (45).
 - B. Jesus spent time praying in the mountain (46).
 - Spiritual intimacy is accomplished only as we spend considerable time alone with God.

- II. Spiritual Dullness – The disciples were fearful and amazed at Jesus' power because they had hard hearts (Mark 6:47-56).
 - A. Jesus allowed the disciples struggle to row against a storm on the Sea of Galilee until 3 AM (47-48).
 - God may delay rescuing us from trials until the time is right for what He wants to teach us.
 - B. Jesus walked on water and calmed the wind (49-51).
 - God can overrule natural law anytime He wants.
 - C. The disciples were amazed because they didn't connect Jesus' last miracle with the current fear (52).
 - We can know God's power factually, but forget it when our personal security is threatened.
 - Failure to trust God in trials is a serious sin.

Spiritual Dullness (Hard Hearts in Believers)

1. Spiritual dullness happens to believers who have already experienced the power of God significantly.
2. Spiritual dullness happens when we fixate on the moment instead of seeing the big picture of God's faithfulness over time.
3. Spiritual dullness becomes a prolonged condition unless we embrace a faith attitude, focusing on God's nature instead of our needs.

- D. Jesus continued to heal throughout Galilee (53-56).
 - God doesn't wait around for the spiritually dull.