

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

# HARDENED HEARTS

Mark 6:30-56

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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To "set the stage" for discussions, read through Mark 6:30-56.

(Parallel accounts are Matt. 14:13–21, Luke 9:11–17 and John 6:1–14.)

*[Note that this is a good example of mistaken chapter divisions in some versions of the Bible. The story of the 5000 does actually begin in verse 30. The ESV, NIV, and the NET Bible do divide the account at v.30.]*

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: FATIGUE AND "OVERLOAD".**

Imagine yourselves in the place of the disciples in v. 31.

How influential is fatigue in how we respond to God?

What did the disciples want to do at this time?

What did Jesus suggest as a solution?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: HOPES DASHED, BUT.....**

"Not again!!!"

Who were the disciples thinking of? What were they missing?

What was Jesus' response to the mass of people?

Read v. 34 and then compare Ezekiel 34:11-16. Remember the parallel to Psalm 23, or re-read it if your memory needs a boost. Note the value of Mark's including the presence of green grass.

How did this situation relate to Jesus' presentation of Himself as The Messiah?

Side note: John 6:14 tells us that, after the miracle, the men of the crowd acknowledged that Jesus was The Prophet of Deut. 18:15, the coming Prophet (The Messiah) who Moses had said would be like himself.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: SO WHY DID THE DISCIPLES NOT UNDERSTAND?**

The answer is in Mark 6:52.

In v. 51, how could the fear response of being astounded or astonished have replaced a feeling of wonder and delight in Jesus' power?

What does it take to be "teachable"?

Where does the "me", the "what I want", fit into a walk with God?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: MY RIGHTS AND MY EXPECTATIONS.**

Assume that it is in fact OK to have some expectations, and also to believe that I have certain rights.

How do my rights and expectations fit into my relationship with Jesus?

How does Proverbs 3:5-6 relate to this?

What about 1 Peter 5:6? and compare that to Eph. 5:21.

Or Romans 12:1-2?

**WHAT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON OTHERS' MEETING OUR EXPECTATIONS?**

If we have a very valid passion, how should we handle the fact that someone else may not share that passion?

What about if that passion is about a ministry, or about studying God's Word? Is it possible that we could let that create bitterness?

What is more important before God, relationships, or thinking alike?

**JUST A THOUGHT:**

If I get mad at God, how will He handle that?

Does His love depend on my actions?

What about Romans 5:6-11?

What might I miss because of that attitude?

Consider 1 John 3:19-20.

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### ♦ PRAYER:

Let us be faithful in praying for the Ingvoldstads and the Tagbanwa people:

- Nate and Megan are travelling back to the Philippines and will need to find an appropriate vehicle to purchase once they get there.
- Ingvoldstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the selection and growth of Tagbanwan Elders.
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.

Pray also for our elders as they plan and prepare to shepherd us into the kind of fellowship God desires.