

How To See More Clearly

“Case For Christ” Series, (A Study of Mark’s Gospel) part 22
April 3rd, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

The Missed Moment:

(Mark 6:45-52, John 6:14-15)

How To See More Clearly:

1. Don’t let fear, frustration, fatigue ...

(Isaiah 41:10, Psalms 46:1-3, 10)

2. Don’t miss the ...

(Ex. 33:18-22, I Kings 19:11, Job 9:8-11, Hebrews 3:5-6)

Moses

_____ I AM
spoke _____ God
freedom from _____
_____ home

Jesus

_____ I AM
spoke _____ God
freedom from _____
_____ home

3. Don’t put God ...

(Mark 6:51-52, Isaiah 66:1-2)

4. Don’t make life ...

(Matthew 14:22-33)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our last week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

The plan is to take a three week break from our 'normal meetings' and start back up the week of Sunday May 1st.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 6:45-52, we read how the disciples were stuck in the middle of the Sea of Galilee and how Jesus took a walk toward them to 'pass by them'.

Speaking of getting stuck somewhere or something that got stuck, when have you ever felt stranded or stuck somewhere? What led up to it and how long did it take for you to get unstuck or unstranded? Was there anyone you want to brag on that helped you out?

Also speaking of something getting stuck, do you have a fun or not so fun memory of a part of your body (head, foot, hand, finger etc.) getting stuck somewhere or something that got stuck on you somehow? How did that resolve itself?

Ok ... so much for warm up :). In Mark 6, we read that it was actually Jesus' idea for the disciples to get in the boat and head to the other side. Doing what Jesus told them to actually led to them getting stuck in the middle of a lake unable to make it shore in the middle of the night!

A huge life lesson is to not wait for life to get 'unstuck' and get to shore somewhere ... before we humble ourselves and draw near to God and learn what He wants to teach us and minister to others while waiting to get 'unstuck'.

When have you felt 'stuck' ... either in your job or living situation etc. ... and were tempted to just wait it out and not grow or seek what God is wanting to teach you or work through you while things have slowed a bit?

In the past, can you think of what God has taught you or how you have grown while you were in a situation that you would have rather not been in?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 6:45-52)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday from Mark 6, we heard how the disciples missed what God intended for them to understand and live in light of. They were still following Jesus but, like us, there are times we miss an opportunity to grow and learn.

One of the classic passages of Scripture in knowing and pursuing God is Philippians 3:4-17.

Let's read and reflect on this passage. What insights do you see related to pursuing God more wholeheartedly and learning from opportunities that He brings our way?

In this passage, Paul was not only dealing with his past but with all he had accomplished. He knew the potential for his successes and failures to hinder his closeness to God.

Similarly, our past successes and accomplishments or our past failures and disappointments can be what keep us from grow closer to God.

Which one would you say you deal with more? How can we keep them from hindering us?

2. As a follower of Jesus, none of us want to develop a 'hardened heart' or a resistant heart that does not allow God to speak to us anyway He wants to about anything that He wants to address.

Unfortunately, most of us have seen others and/or experienced ourselves becoming defensive and slipping in our responsiveness, openness and teachability toward God.

How could the following verses keep our hearts tender to God and open to His promptings?

Romans 3:23, James 5:16, Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 12:15, 2 Timothy 2:4-5

Which of the verses above do you think is a strength in your life?
Which one do you need to work on?

Wrapping Up:

Well ... another small group season at GPC has come to and end! How has being part of our small group encouraged you, stretched you, helped you in your walk with God?

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?