

MARK

Mark 6:45-52

Wk 24

Pastor Chip

General:

- Pastor Chip opened with the illustration of dirty glasses and how distorted lenses can affect what we see. Have you ever misunderstood a person or situation because your perspective was incomplete or distorted? What eventually helped you see things differently?
- Throughout Mark's Gospel, the disciples continually misunderstand who Jesus really is. What difference would it make in your daily life if you increasingly saw Jesus not simply as someone who can help you through life's difficulties, but as the Lord over all things?
- How can our fears or preconceived expectations prevent us from recognizing what God is actually doing?
- How is it possible to witness God's work in our lives and still miss what He's revealing about Himself?
- When you hear the phrase "hardened heart," what comes to mind? How might someone's heart gradually become hardened without that person even realizing it?
- Pastor Chip emphasized that we need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to truly understand who Jesus is. What's the difference between knowing information about Jesus and genuinely seeing Him for who He is?
- What experiences, assumptions, fears, or expectations have most influenced the way you see Jesus? Is there anything that might be preventing you from seeing Him more clearly?
- What lenses are you currently viewing your circumstances through? How might those lenses be affecting your ability to recognize God's presence or activity in your life?

Take Home 1: Let's not miss all the incredible literary and biblical connections

- Read Job 9:8, 11 alongside Mark 6:48. Both passages describe walking on the sea and passing by. What does this connection reveal about the identity of Jesus, and why is that significant beyond the miracle itself?
- How does understanding Jesus as God Himself change the way we approach Him rather than seeing Him merely as a teacher, prophet, or miracle worker?
- Pastor Chip highlighted several connections between Jesus and Moses, particularly in Exodus 14 and 24. How do these connections deepen our understanding of Jesus as greater than Moses and of what He came to accomplish?

Take Home 2: The storm sometimes is the price of obedience, it is not always a sign of disobedience (Mk. 6:45)

- Have you ever experienced a difficult season while genuinely trying to follow Jesus? How did that experience affect your understanding of God's will?
- Sometimes Christians develop a circumstantial Christianity, assuming that favorable circumstances mean God is pleased with them, while difficulty means something must be wrong. What's dangerous about that way of thinking? How does this passage challenge it?
- How do you discern the difference between a difficult situation God may be calling you to persevere through and one where wisdom requires you to change direction?

What Can We Learn From the Storm?

- When you're struggling and God seems distant, what makes it difficult to believe that He still sees you and knows exactly what you're going through?
- How might remembering that Jesus intercedes for us change the way you interpret seasons when God seems silent or absent?
- Where in your life are you struggling with God's timing? What does waiting tend to reveal about your expectations of Him?
- If Jesus didn't explain why you were going through a difficult season but assured you of His presence, would that be enough? Why or why not?