

*Mark 6:45-56**Their Hearts Were Hardened*

There are thoughts of comfort here for all true believers. Wherever they may be or whatever their circumstances, the Lord Jesus sees them. Alone or in company, in sickness or in health, by sea or by land, in perils in the city, and in perils in the wilderness- the same eye which saw the disciples tossed on the lake is ever looking at us. We are never beyond the reach of His care. Our way is never hidden from Him. He knows the path that we take and is still able to help. He may not come to our aid at the time we like best, but He will never allow us utterly to fail. He who walked upon the water never changes. He will always come at the right time to uphold His people. Though He tarry, let us wait patiently. Jesus sees us and will not forsake us." Ryken

- I. The Lord is constantly working to deepen our faith in him. He does everything in his power to enable us to stand firm in our trust of him. He teaches us the value of what that means in his Word by providing living examples of those who stood firm and those who didn't. He brings people and circumstances into our lives that force us to make a choice to either trust him or not. He tests our faith as a means of maturing us so that we learn to persevere in the faith. He does that and so much more, so that we are better able to handle and stand strong in the storms of living in a fallen world as we deal with our sin nature and Satan's constant attacks.

Mark 6:45-48a

John 6:5-6

James 1:2-4

Rom. 1:16 ... *"The righteous will live by faith."*

Gal. 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me.*

- II. Jesus has revealed himself to us by opening our eyes to see him for who he truly is, the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins so that those of us who put our faith in him will be given the gift eternal life. Having a growing awareness of what it truly means to have his deity dwell in us to strengthen and empower us through the Spirit, combined with the understanding that we have his mind to give us the ability to think biblically in a world that thinks Satan's way, should embolden us to stand strong in our faith without compromise. It's a matter of how big He is in our minds eye.

Mark 6:48b-51

Ex. 33:18-23

1 Kings 19:9-12

Matt. 14:28-31

Eimi Ego, I Am

Eimi = to be, to exist,

Ego = I

1 John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

- III. We have been given the responsibility to hold firmly to the confidence we had in Christ when we first came to know him. The Lord expects us to continue in the faith till the end of life as we know it here on earth. He wants us to stay confident in him so that we are ready either for death, or for his appearing as he calls us up into the clouds to meet him at the rapture. He warns us to guard our hearts from becoming hard toward him. It means that if we are not careful, we will find that we've drifted away from him because of sin's deceitfulness and the fatigue that can come by having to deal with the godlessness of this age. We have been given the Spirit, we are indwelt with Christ and we must make sure our hearts remain sensitive to him and his ways.

Mark 6:51-56

Heb. 3:12-14

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold onto our courage and the hope of which we boast.