

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What causes us to fear?
2. How can this account comfort us the next time we find ourselves in “deep water”?
3. Do we try to deal with fear ourselves, or do we let Jesus deal with it?
4. When did the disciples recognize Jesus?
5. What is so significant about touching the border of His garment?

SUMMARY:

Hardening of the heart is a deadly spiritual disease. The cares and worries of life as well as the pursuit of worldly gain and pleasures can create a condition in our heart that makes it impossible to recognize the leading of the Lord. Too many times we see the Lord as another spirit because of a preconceived idea we have in our minds. Our heart is the gateway to our soul. A soft, pliable, yielded heart opens the channel to give us access to the power of the Holy Spirit. A hardened heart throws the switch to human reasoning.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

March 2, 2008

First Quarter

CHRIST, MASTER OF FEAR

LESSON TEXT: Mark 6:45-56

LESSON SETTING: Christ sent disciples across the sea to Bethsaida while He remains to pray. Later at night He rejoins them at sea by walking on the water.

TIME: About 29 - 32 A.D.

- I. THE MASTER’S PRAYER.** Mark 6:45-46
 - A. Away From the Crowd. Matthew 14:23; 6:6; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; 9:28
- II. THE DISCIPLES’ PROBLEM.** Mark 6:47-50
 - A. Toiling (vs. 48)
 - B. Contrary Wind (vs. 48) Acts 27:14-15
- III. THE MASTER’S PRESENCE.** Mark 6:51-52
 - A. Peace. Mark 4:39; John 14:27; Philippians 4:7; 2 John 3; James 3:18
 - B. Help in Time of Need (vs. 51) Acts 27:23; Psalm 46:1; Hebrews 4:16
 - C. Hardened Hearts (vs. 52) Hebrews 3:15; 4:7
- IV. THE MASTER’S POWER.** Mark 6:53-56
 - A. Over Nature. Mark 4:39
 - B. Over Disease. (vs. 56) Luke 8:48; 9:6
 - C. Over Sin. Colossians 2:13, 15; Hebrews 2:14

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE OF GOOD CHEER; IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID.*

Mark 6:50

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 15:21-31

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Micah 7:18-20; Habakkuk 3:17-19;
Mark 7:24-37; Hebrews 11:1-6

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: THE MASTER REWARDS FAITH

INTRODUCTION:

We sometimes marvel at certain Christians' faith and we too would desire to have the same. Faith is put into our hearts by God Himself. We must ask Him for it even as the father that said to Christ, "*I believe, help thou my unbelief.*" (Mark 9:24)

Faith such as the mother mentioned in our text is God given. The Spirit inspired this faith within her. She still believed, even after Jesus' words, "*It is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it to the dogs.*" What a testing!

Often our faith is tested by our Heavenly Father when He delays in answering our request or denies it altogether. Should we then lose faith? No indeed! That is just when our faith should be strengthened and we believe "He knows what is best for us." Can we say with Job, "*Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him?*" That is God given faith. May we pray that such faith is ours.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The presence of God drives out fear.

GOLDEN TEXT: *GREAT IS THY FAITH; BE IT UNTO THEE EVEN AS THOU WILT.*

Matthew 15:28

Merely believing in the power of Jesus is not always enough to attain the blessing. The woman of Canaan could have been discouraged in seeking the Lord's help for her daughter. He was a Jew, surrounded by Jews. She was a Gentile, shut out from the promises to Israel. But she beheld in Christ, a King, with close ties to God, Himself. "*O Lord, Thou son of David.*" She felt that with all His mercy for Israel, He yet had mercy left over. If the full blessing was to be denied her, yet she would plead, if only for a crumb. The Lord praised her faith and granted her request.

We have promises of the same power and mercy of Christ for our spiritual healing. "*Ask and ye shall receive.*" "*Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.*" "*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do.*"

If we act upon our belief, it becomes faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 3 – 9

M. *The Master Rewards Faith. Matthew 15:21-31
T. The Master's Encouragement to Faith. Hab. 3:17-19
W. Faith for Healing. Matthew 8:5-15
T. Faith for Salvation. Mark 2:1-12
F. Faith in Prayer. Mark 11:12-26
S. Faith in Time of Testing. Acts 16:16-34
S. Faith in Time of Sorrow. Job 1:13-22