

Posture of One's Heart

Mark 8:1-21

1. God's Grace Response to Our Slowness vs. 1-10

Although the disciples of Jesus were struggling with the opportunity to serve alongside Jesus with the feeding of the four thousand, Jesus once again displayed His grace and did not allow **the slowness of heart and mind** of the disciples to prevent them from being agents of God's blessing to the needy.

Question:

Discipleship is a journey of learning to live for Jesus. As a result, there will be moments when we will struggle with the slowness of heart and mind towards applying God's Word to our lives. How would you explain slowness of heart and mind to someone?

How does this truth be an encouragement to you that God provides His grace in those moments so that we can still be agents of God's blessing?

In what ways do we need to show grace to those who are in a season of struggling with the slowness of heart and mind towards understanding how to apply God's Word to a specific circumstance?

2. Two Different Heart Postures: Faith Pursuit or Zero Trust vs. 11-13

Jesus sighed deeply towards the Pharisees' question, as they were not asking from a posture of faith that desires to understand more about the kingdom of God, but of an opposing heart desiring to test Jesus by demanding a sign in hopes that this would sabotage Jesus' ministry.

There was no need to ask for a sign, as they witnessed Jesus' miraculous healings, exorcisms and have observed His ministry.

What heart posture do we have towards God? Do we place our trust in what God offers in His Scriptures or do we desire for something more than what God offers us in Scripture? God has spoken plainly in Christ, and we ought not to seek for anything more. We find God's will for our lives revealed in Scripture.

3. The Agenda of the Heart Vs. 14-21

Jesus warned the disciples to not have the agenda that the Pharisees and Herod had. They operated from self-preservation, self absorption, self advancement and would have been all for Jesus if He had endorsed their leadership agendas. Those agendas will hinder the disciples from abiding in Jesus.

Question:

In the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves the answer to the question is supplied, only Jesus can satisfy the people! (John 10:10) What steps do I need to take to make sure my life is focused on God's agenda?