

Challenging Circumstances

Mark 6:45-51

1. Share a time when you were really frightened about something. How did it turn out? What do you think about that experience now?
2. Does it surprise you to realize that there are many times in the gospels where Jesus allowed his disciples to get into challenging circumstances? Why or why not?
3. What do you say to yourself when life seems difficult?
4. Read Mark 6:47. The disciples were “straining at the oar because the wind was against them.” What challenging circumstances sometimes leave you feeling like the wind is against you?
5. Pastor Mark draws a distinction between suffering painful consequences for our sinful choices and dealing with challenging circumstances because of our faithfulness to the Lord. Why is that distinction important?
6. Some people assume that if they are honoring the Lord and obeying Him, their lives will not be difficult or challenging. In what ways might that assumption be partially true? In what ways is that assumption wrong?
7. Why does God care more about our maturity level than our comfort level?
8. Fear can cause us to assume the worst and lose our perspective. One of the most common forms of fear is worry. What sort of things do you worry about?
9. What can we do to improve our attitude and change our perspective when we begin to worry and complain about challenging circumstances?

10. In what ways is Jesus not only our provider, but also our most important provision?