

“Jesus—the World-Changer”
May 4, 2014

Mark 6:45-7:23

PROP- Jesus is the ultimate Revolutionary—radically changing perspectives and value systems!

- Here He challenges His disciples’ UNBELIEF with the question: **“WHAT IS POSSIBLE?”**
- Then He ruffles the Pharisees TRADITIONS by asking: **“WHAT IS IMPORTANT?”**

1. WHAT IS POSSIBLE? (6:45-56)

- Jesus disperses the crowd & sends His disciples on a boat trip
 - (John 6:15) After the miraculous feeding of 5,000, they wanted to make Him king—by force.
 - He refused to entertain their “short-sighted” offer.
 - He was “tempted in every way that we are, yet He did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Their offer could have been tempting.
 - Instead, He went off “alone to pray.”
 - Rest & refreshing
 - Clarity of vision
 - New strength
- Meanwhile, in the boat, the disciples fought a “contrary wind”
 - Rowed all night, only moving 3 to 4 miles (John 6:19)
 - Jesus came to them during the “4th watch” (3 to 6 a.m.)
- Powerful image of a dramatic contrast:
 - **DISCIPLES:**
 - Caught in the “winds of unbelief”
 - Result: **fearful and floundering**
 - Jesus identified the root of their unbelief: **“they did not UNDERSTAND the miracle of the loaves”**
 - “By-standers” vs. “stand under” to ponder & receive
 - Miracles are “SIGNS” and “WONDERS”
 - NOTE: 2 kinds of unbelief
 - **JESUS:**
 - Confidently walking on waves
 - Lit.- “I AM! NO FEAR!” (Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:16)
 - He **DEFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES** (*cloud, pillar of fire, manna/water, dry bones, roadways, songs, beauty*)
 - “As if to pass by...” - awaiting their invitation
 - “The wind stopped **immediately**”
- Healing came to multitudes (through faith in Him)
 - Not merely through touching His garments (613 knot *tzitzit*)

2. WHAT IS IMPORTANT? (7:1-23)

Jesus challenged their religious traditions with two powerful words:

a. Stay connected to God's heart.

- What has become “tradition” to us—may not be important to God.
- “Traditions” can be “based on” God’s truth. But when we lose touch with His heart—things can quickly become “off-base.”
 - (v. 11) The tradition of “Corban” (*Lit.- “offering”*) was based on the setting aside of a piece of property, a possession or an amount of money that was dedicated to God. Even time could be set aside as devoted to Him (Deuteronomy 23 & Numbers 30).
 - However, over time, “Corban” had become a way for people to neglect giving care to their aging parents. “Legitimate” excuses.
 - It had become an “honorable” way of dishonoring your parents.
 - Jesus said, “And you do many other similar things.”

In plain words, Jesus was saying- “Stop using your traditional views of the Law of God to legitimize your loveless behavior.”

b. Pay attention to your own heart.

- It's what's inside that counts. (Prov. 4:23)
- External “rinsing” cannot cleanse the heart.
- “Uncleanness” comes from within.
 - Behaving w/o boundaries (*i.e., sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, lewdness*)
 - Twisted thinking (*i.e., greed, deceit, envy, arrogance, folly*)
 - Relationally destructive (*i.e., malice, slander*)

All of these can be caught and cleansed at the heart level.

David, a “man after God’s heart” learned to enlist His help in keeping his heart clean—“Search me (my heart) to see if there is any wicked (twisted) way in me—an lead me in your everlasting ways.”

CONCLUSION

Jesus: “Listen and understand” (Mark 7:14)

- He will show you what is POSSIBLE with Him
- He will tell you what is IMPORTANT to Him