

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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MOMENTS FROM THE MOUNT
Lesson # 4- Part 1

“How to Deal with Difficult Days”

Mount Pisgah, throughout history, there has *always* been “**difficult days**”. At times, life can become extremely difficult!!! But, *somehow*, and in *some way*, God has *always* taken care of His people during difficult times. And that is true throughout “biblical” history as well.

FIRST QUESTION: ___ yes ___ no Do you think that God would now, *all of a sudden*, stop taking care of *His* people during the “**difficult days**” of 2020?

1). **Hebrews 13:8-** Jesus Christ the **same** yesterday, and to day, and for ever.
 God is **committed** to delivering **you**, as He was and did for many biblical character!

2). **Acts 10:34-** Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is **no** respecter of persons:

SECOND QUESTION: When you think about “**difficult days**”, the question that should be asked is: **Difficult for whom?**

POINT # 1:

***** When you read your bible, you must admit that “**difficult days**” were not “**difficult**” for *everyone*.

1). **Exodus 8:22-23-**²² And I will **sever** (separate) in that (difficult) day the **land of Goshen**, in which **my** people dwell, that **no** swarms of flies shall be **there**; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.²³ And I will put a **division** between **my** people and **thy** people: to morrow shall this sign be.

2). **Exodus 9:4;6; 25-26- (vs. 4)-** And the LORD shall **sever** (separate) **between** the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and **there shall nothing** die of all that is the **children of Israel**.
 (vs. 6)- And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt *died*: **but** the cattle of the **children of Israel** *died not* one.

(vs. 25)- And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

(vs. 26)- **Only** in the **land of Goshen**, where the **children of Israel** were, was there **no** hail.

3). **Exodus 10:23-** They *saw* not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: **but** all the **children of Israel** *had light* in **their** dwellings.

4). **Exodus 11:7b-.....** that ye may know that the Lord doth put a **difference** between the Egyptians and Israel.

Point #2:

God Himself, has never experienced a difficult (hard) day.

1). **Jeremiah 32:17-** Ah Lord GOD! behold, **thou** hast *made* the *heaven* and the *earth* by thy **great power** and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard** (difficult) **for thee**

2). **Jeremiah 32:27-** Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: **is there any thing too hard** (difficult) **for me?**

3). **Genesis 18:14a- Is any thing too hard** (difficult) **for the LORD?**

So, it's apparent that *some* people fair okay during "difficult" times. **WHY IS THAT?**

***** One of the **main** reasons, why days become so difficult for *some*, is because *some* people *have* what the bible calls, or refers to as, a "**hard heart**".

QUESTION # 3- DO YOU HAVE A HARD HEART?

You say, "No preacher, I do not have a **hard heart**. I do recall reading in the bible where Pharaoh had a **hard heart**, but he was an *unbeliever*. I'm not like Pharaoh; I'm a *believer*."

1). **Exodus 7:14;23-** And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's **heart** is **hardened**, he refuseth to let people go.

2). **Exodus 8:15;19;32-** But when Pharaoh saw there was respite, he **hardened** his **heart**, and harkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. (**vs. 19**)- Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's **heart** was **hardened**, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. (**vs. 32**)- And Pharaoh **hardened** his **heart** at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

3). **Exodus 9:7-** And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was **not one** of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the **heart** of Pharaoh was **hardened**, and he did not let the people go.

- An *unbeliever* _____ have a hard heart.
- A *believer* _____ have a hard heart.

A. The Example of the 12 Disciples (believers).

1). **Mark 6:45; 48-52-** And straightway he constrained **his disciples** to get into the ship, and to **go to the other side** before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

We're about to see the disciples experience a "**difficult day**". This popped up out of nowhere! It was unexpected!

(**vs. 48**)- And he **saw** them **toiling** in rowing; for the wind was **contrary** (difficult) unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he **cometh unto them**, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

(**vs. 49**)- But when **they saw him** walking upon the sea, they **supposed** it had been a spirit, and cried out:

(**vs. 50**)- For **they all saw him**, and were **troubled**. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

(**vs. 51**)- And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

***** (vs. 52)- For they **considered not** the **miracle** of the **loaves**: for **their heart was hardened**.

So, we see that it is possible for a believer to have a **hard heart!!!!**

The “**key**” that unlocks this passage is found in (vs. 52a)- “For they **considered not the miracles of the loaves**”.

We **MUST** know what this **means**, and what it is **referring to!!!!** The answers will definitely turn around some of your difficult days.

- **Probing Question:** Exactly what did the *disciples* fail to consider?
- **Personal Question:** What have *we* failed to consider?

2). Mark 6:35-38; 41-44-

(vs. 35)- And when the day was now far spent, his **disciples** came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:

(vs. 36)- **Send them away**, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, **and buy themselves bread**: for they have nothing to eat.

(vs. 37)- He answered and said unto them, Give **ye** them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

(vs. 38)- He saith unto them, How many loaves have **ye**? go and see. And when they knew, they say, **Five, and two fishes**.

(vs. 41)- And when he had taken the **five loaves** and the **two fishes**, he looked up to heaven, and *blessed*, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the **two fishes** divided he among them **all**.

(vs. 42)- And they did **all** eat, and were **filled**.

(vs. 43)- And they took up **twelve** baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

(vs. 44)- And they that did eat of the loaves were about **five thousand** men.

***** THIS IS WHAT THEY FAILED TO “CONSIDER” (REMEMBER).

VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: So, exactly what is a hard heart? And again, do you have one? Because if by chance you do, that is one of the **main** reasons why “**difficult days**” become so “**difficult**”.

***** **DEFINITION AND EXPLANATION OF A HARD HEART:** It’s when you fail to **remember (consider)**, what God did (for you, and for the characters in the bible) on yesterday!!!!

If He took care of you and your family back in 2008, why do you now believe, that He will/might not, take care of you in 2020?

It means that when “**difficult days**” show up, all of a sudden, you get “**spiritual amnesia**”.

You simply “**consider not**” the miracles of the fish and loaves.

B. The Example of the Pharisees (unbelievers).

1). **Mark 3:1-5-** And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

(vs. 2)- And **they** watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him

(vs-3-4)- And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. ⁴ And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

(vs. 5)- And when he had looked round about on them with **anger**, being **grieved** for the **hardness of their hearts**, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: During these current “**difficult days**”, can God **STILL** do something supernatural? Meaning, that once it happens, there will be *no other way*, that you can possibly explain it, except to say, “**but God!**”

2). Malachi 3:6- For I am the LORD, **I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob (and Christians) are **not** consumed.

When a person’s **heart** becomes **hard/hardened**, they no longer believe, refuse to believe, or perhaps have never believed, that God can still do something great!

They fail to remember, the miracles that God did in the bible. They simply do not “**consider**” them!

C. The Example of Ourselves (in the bible).

Again, one of the main reasons why days become so difficult for *believers*, is because we also can have “**hard hearts**”.

So, again, we revisit **QUESTION # 3- “DO YOU HAVE A HARD HEART?”**

1). Hebrews 3:7-8-

(vs. 7)- Wherefore (**as the Holy Ghost saith, To day** if ye will hear his voice,

The Holy Ghost is saying something to you and me right now.

(Vs. 8a)- **Harden not your hearts,**

You must **believe** the deliverance stories and promises in bible. You must **believe** in the power of the God of the bible. You must **believe** that God can **still** do all things! You must **not forget** what He did for you, as well as others, on yesterday.

If you do forget, or have forgotten, then just like the disciples, you are “**not considering the miracles of the loaves!**”

