

Matthew 14 – 17 November 2019

“Overcoming The Dark Hour”

Introduction

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

He's been preaching the Kingdom is coming, the Kingdom is coming, the Kingdom is coming!!!!

The first big challenge to their view of the Kingdom now comes.

John the Baptist is not only in prison, he now dead!

Will this happen to Jesus too?

How will they overcome in this dark hour?

How do you overcome in the dark hour?

Jesus is going to teach them 4 Lessons to Overcome the Dark Hour

We start by examining the cause of their dark hour: Their despair caused by the death of John Baptist (Vs 1-13)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Herod Antipas in Galilee
2. We will next get the backstory as to why John is dead.
3. Application: The guilty conscience sees ghosts of their past sin everywhere.
 - a. The Christian sees only that Christ has washed them clean praise God.

Read Vs 3-5

1. **If** you fear people, your truth always changes.
2. **If** you fear God, truth is always the same.

Read Vs 6-13

1. So the dark hour, John is dead. Is Jesus next?
2. **Is** there plan to conquer Rome crashing down?
3. Isn't there life supposed to get better, not worse?

1st Lesson to Overcome the Dark Hour is to Feed on the Word of God (Vs 14-21)

Read Vs 14-16

1. “This He said tempting them” (John 6:5-6)
2. He wants them to realize...
 - a. It’s not about the pursuit of bread
 - b. **It’s** about pursuing the spiritual Bread of Life, Jesus.
 - c. He can provide ALL that they need.

Read Vs 17-18

1. **Bread** is a picture of the Word of God
2. **Bring** what little you know to God and He’ll give you greater revelation and understanding.
 - a. Lord, I don’t know what to do about my relationship with my wife...bring it to the Lord
 - b. Lord, I don’t know what to do with all these bills...bring it to the Lord.
 - c. Lord, I don’t know how to help my brother...bring it to the Lord.

Read Vs 19-21

1. Bread from the Lord, to the disciples, to the people.
 - a. **Be** a conduit that the Lord can pass His Word thru you to the people.
 - b. To the extent you're ready to give out the Word is the extent that you'll take it in.
2. What a great miracle to fill the people's belly.
 - a. This miracle was to teach them the bigger message that they need to receive His Word.
 - b. **Read** John 6:26-27
 - c. These physical earthly events were designed to teach them spiritual principles.

2nd Lesson to Overcome the Dark Hour is to
Commune with the Father (Vs 22-23)

Read Vs 22-23

1. **It's** 6pm and He's alone....to pray.
2. Take a walk and just talk to God.
3. **What** does it take to quiet yourself/focus-God?

3rd Lesson to Overcome the Dark Hour is to Take Steps of Faith (Vs 24-29)

Read Vs 24-26

1. This is between 3am-6am.
2. It's dark, the boat is being tossed, and now they see a ghost!
3. **When** the dark hour comes, you may think it's hopeless, or not worth it.
 - a. **But** it may just be fear that's holding you back.
 - b. Fear will paralyze you from taking steps of faith!
4. **Jesus** is answer to the storm they're in, but they can't tell it's Him b/c of fear of night & the storm.
 - a. The answer to the night storm is coming right toward them.
 - b. They just need to believe that God sent them to the other side.
 - i. They need faith (see vs 22)

Read Vs 27-29

1. This is Peter literally taking steps of faith!
2. I believe the Lord allowed this just to teach us that faith is a step by step process.
3. **We** need to take the next step that's in front of us and not worry about 4 steps from now.
4. **Notice** in vs 29 – he did this “to go to Jesus”.
 - a. Can you say that the things you do lead toward Jesus or away from Him?
 - b. New activity? How can this activity lead me toward Jesus?

4th Lesson to Overcome the Dark Hour is to Keep Your Eyes On Jesus (Vs 30-32)

Read Vs 30-32

1. **Will** always be a boisterous storm to look at.
2. **Don't** get caught up in thinking about it.
3. **Turn** to Heb 12:1-2 – Joy & I's wedding rings.

We conclude by seeing the results of their dark hour: Their worship & personal growth (Vs 33)

Read Vs 33

1. Matt 8 – they said, “What manner of man is this that even the wind obeys Him?”
2. Now the confess their worship for Him!
3. With each step of faith, they’re growing.
 - a. Growing is a process over time.
 - b. Worship is a result of a lifestyle of dependence on God.

Conclusion –

So, do you need to overcome some dark hours?

1. Feed on the Word of God
2. Commune with the Father
3. Take steps of faith
4. Keep your eyes on Jesus

As you experience God and His work in your days, you’ll begin to worship as never before.