


The Gospel of Mark

Part 23

From **Hard Heart** to **Significant Start**

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

2024.5.5



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "Talking Points, Walking Points" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- How surprised are you that the Twelve could repeatedly see Jesus' miracles, and yet "not get it"?

What does that tell you about them? ...about yourself?

- How surprised are you that the Twelve could make such rapid progress in a single day?

Tell us about the time period when you saw the most rapid growth in your life.

When was it? How long did it take? To what do you attribute the growth? Did it last?

- Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3. What desire within God motivated his actions toward Israel?

Tell about a time when you were tested by God. Do you think you got a passing or failing grade?

- As a group, review the "three dots" Peter connected which enabled him to move away from a hard heart.

① **Eternal Perspective**

② **Clear Perception of the Alternative**

③ **Confidence in and Attachment to Jesus**

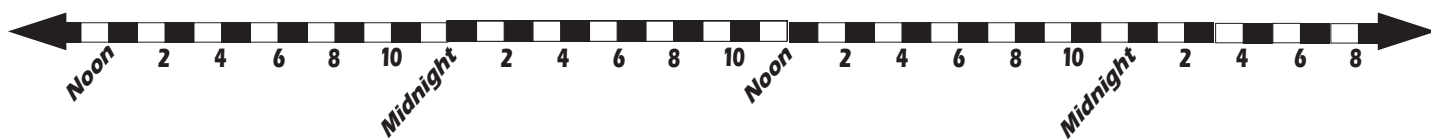
Which one of those three perspectives is most compelling in your life—and why?

Tell about a time when you were tempted toward faithlessness, but that perspective helped you stand firm.

Which perspective do you think is least compelling in your life—and why?

Tell about a time when you were tempted and your lack of that perspective resulted in "slippage".

What do you think would most help you strengthen those three perspectives in your life?



Mark 6:45-52

- ⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away.
- ⁴⁶ After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.
- ⁴⁷ When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.
- ⁴⁸ Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.
- ⁴⁹ But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;
- ⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were terrified.
- But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."
- ⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,
- ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

John 6:67-69

- ⁶⁷ Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go?"
- ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.
- ⁶⁹ We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see below) *is useful for studying any topic. Let's use it to explore the "hard heart"—and how God softens it...*

Monday—Study Deuteronomy 15:7-8 and Mark 3:1-6.

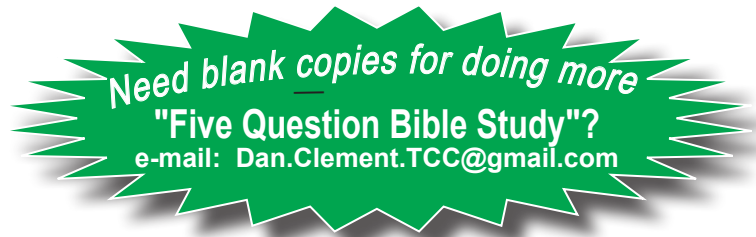
Tuesday—Study 2 Chronicles 36:11-14.

Wednesday—Study Romans 2:1-6.

Thursday—Study Ezekiel 36:22-27.

Friday—Study Zechariah 7:8-14.

Saturday—Study Hebrews 3:12-15.



Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]