

## SEEING GOD THROUGH THE HAZE

### Matthew 14:22-33

**Introduction:** There are times when we can see God clearly and all is well between us and God. Suddenly something causes a haze, a fog that obscures the once clarity of God. Maybe it happened when a child, maybe when a teenager, or maybe just recently. It might have been a phone call, a note in the mail, a diagnosis from the doctor. Something happened that caused you to not see God as you once did.

"Surely God wouldn't have allowed such a thing to happen to me" we think. From that moment of disappointment and perhaps pain, the clarity of God is gone and disappointment has distorted the once clear view and God seems now to be distant and unclear. Most of us know what it means to feel disappointment about God. All of us have our expectations of what God should do and not do in our lives and when pain comes, tragedy strikes our world, our once happy, bubbly view of God has been shattered, all our expectations of God have been destroyed and doubts begin to surface.

"Where is God?" We look for Him, listen for Him, but He just isn't there anymore. Our view of God is different, distorted, hazy. We see where He was, but can't tell if it is God there or not. Where is God? What happened?

### I. JESUS' DISCIPLES WERE DISAPPOINTED IN HIM

1. Jesus had fed over 5,000 and hadn't turned them away as the disciples had wanted.
  - Jesus had sent His disciples across the sea while a storm was approaching.
  - They went without Him, even though He knew about the weather.
2. The greatest storm the disciples went through that night wasn't from the weather but from fear.
  - They was fear of the waves, but greater fear because Jesus wasn't there with them.
  - They rowed for hours, making no progress, where was Jesus? Has He forgotten about us?
3. The disciples were mad, disappointed, scared and were sulking.
  - They were at the mercy of the storm, tired, exhausted, expecting to die at any moment and Jesus wasn't there. He just wasn't coming to help them.
4. Jesus did come and immediately questions were asked, "why didn't you come? Why did you wait so long? We could have drowned. We had given up on you coming to help us."

### II. LIKE THE DISCIPLES, WE, TOO HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN JESUS

1. We have also had storms in our lives.
  - We've struggled, looked for help, searched for any tiny glimmer of hope.
  - We knew Jesus also knew about our situation, knew that we were in a storm of life, but He just wasn't there to help.
  - We couldn't see Him, we called out to Him, but we just didn't see Him or hear His calming voice. Where was Jesus?

2. We, like the disciples, began to doubt that Jesus cared, and we became angry, disappointed, and yes, like the disciples, we sulked and pouted. "Poor me."
3. When we did hear from Jesus, we, also like the disciples, had a thousand questions.....

## CONCLUSION:

1. Think of a time in your life when your heart was shattered by a painful experience, when things didn't go as you had expected, God didn't intervene as you thought He should have.
2. What do you add to a phrase like this: "If God is really God, then why.....?"
3. Have you ever felt all alone in the middle of a terrible storm? Did it seem that God had abandoned you? You were scared, alone, no heavenly voice bringing assurance, did you feel and act like the disciples did on that stormy night in their sinking boat?
4. Have you learned something about God since that exhausting, painful, terrible stormy experience in your life?
5. When we can't see God anymore, that doesn't mean that He's gone. We must trust Him and remember that He is there even though His presence is obscured by what we are going through. He has not left us.
6. Jesus will always be closer to us than we could ever have dreamed. He told us, "*...I will never leave you nor forsake you....*"
7. Encourage one another for just about everyone around you either has, is or will experience things that will cause their sight of God to become cloudy, hazy, obscured and their faith in God will begin to waver.