

DISCOURAGEMENTS

Jeremiah 9:1-11

Dull Minds

- Encountering dull minds brings disappointments.
- 1. The writer of Hebrews was hindered in his efforts to teach some because they were "dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:11-14).

Dull Minds

2. People often failed to comprehend what Jesus said (see Jno. 7:33-36; 8:21-27; 38-43; John 10:24; Mt. 13:10-16).
3. His most dedicated followers sometimes missed the point (Mt. 15:10-20; 16:21-23).
4. To them he raised such questions as: "Are ye also yet without understanding?" and "Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?" (Mt. 15:16; Mk. 8:17).

Closed Minds

- Paul foretold that "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires" (2 Tim. 4:3, NASV).
- There were those who would take His loaves and fishes, but not His teaching (John 6:24-69).

Closed Minds

- Others put their personal desires ahead of the truth He taught (John 11:47-50; Mt. 12:22-24).
- When He would not serve their purpose and teach what they wanted to hear they had no time for Him (Mt. 15:1-13). They closed their eyes and hardened their hearts, "lest at anytime they should see with eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Mt. 15:13).

Opposition

- Jesus faced "successful" opposition.
- 1. Many were determined to destroy His influence and defeat His purpose—even if they had to resort to perversions, misrepresentations and lies to do it (Mt. 12:14; 22:15; 26:59-61; cf. John 2:19-21).

Opposition

2. They tried to destroy His reputation (**John 10:20; Mt. 11:16-19**).
3. They misrepresented His teaching (**Lk. 23:1-2; Jno. 19:12**);
 - a. What he really taught. cf. **Mt. 22:15-22; John 18:36**).
4. His good works infuriated them and they sought to so pervert these as to turn others against Him (**Mt. 12:1-4; Luke 6:6-11; 13:11-17; John 5:1-16; Mt. 9:32-34**).

Antagonistic Environment

- **Rom. 1:18-32** the condition of the Gentiles. (**Eph. 2:1-3, 11,12; 4:17-19; and 1 Pet. 4:1-5; cf. 1 Corinthians**)
- The state of the Jews offered no more encouragement (**See Rom. 2:1-3; 3:23**).

Waning Interest

- **Some believed for a while ... Luke 8:13; Heb. 3:12-14**

What Did Jesus Do?

- **Jesus did not give up.**
- **Jesus kept working.**
- **Jesus always prayed.**

What Did Jesus Do?

- **Mt. 14:23** *"And after he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into the mountain apart to pray: and when even was come, he was there alone."*
- **Luke 5:16** *"But he withdrew himself in the deserts, and prayed."*
- **Luke 6:12** *"And it came to pass in these days, that he went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night in prayer to God."*
- **cf. John 17; Mt. 26:36-42**

- *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58*
- *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).*