

## MARK 6:47-52      “THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS”

<sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup> He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Mark’s commentary on the incident of Jesus walking on the water connects it directly to the multiplication of the loaves. Having the advantage of knowing the end of the story, we easily make the connection between the feeding of the 5000 and the provision of manna to the Hebrews in the wilderness. It is God’s provision to his people. If Jesus provided the bread to the people, then he has the power of God. Furthermore, it is God who divided the sea for Israel (Is51:10) and rules the waters (Psalm 89:9).

But the disciples did not make the connection because *their hearts were hardened*. The disciples could not see the truth because they were trying to look through the mirror of their own experience. The glass through which they were trying to see was coated with the amalgam of what they had been taught about God, their expectations of the Messiah, the folklore of the day, the heady experience of being part of the inner circle of a rising star and the excitement of the miracles themselves. All these had to be transformed before they could take the true Jesus to heart.

What is it that we don’t understand about what Jesus did? What are the things that harden our hearts so that we cannot fully know him? In the dark and stormy moments in your life, do you acknowledge God’s presence in the midst of your chaos?

**Replace the mirror of my expectations and experience with the window of your revelation, O Lord. Let me see the truth of your glory and come live in the knowledge of your constant love and mercy. Soften my heart and bend my will so I may see you even in my darkest nights. Amen.**