

## DISCOURAGEMENTS

Jeremiah 9:1-11

1

## Dull Minds

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

2

## Dull Minds

- People often failed to comprehend what Jesus said (see John 7:33-36; 8:21-27;38-43; John 10:24; Matthew 13:10-16; John 9:3).
- His most dedicated followers sometimes missed the point (Matthew 15:10-20;16:21-23).
  - 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?"* (Matthew 15:16; Mk. 8:17).

3

## 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 Timothy 4:3, NASV).
- There were those who would take His loaves and fishes, but not His teaching (John 6:24-69).

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## Closed Minds

- Others put their personal desires ahead of the truth He taught (John 11:47-50; 12:9-11).
- When He would not serve their purpose and teach what they wanted to hear 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"* (Matthew 15:1-13).

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## Opposition

- Jesus faced "successful" opposition.
  1. Many sought to destroy his influence by perversions, misrepresentations and lies. Took counsel. (Matthew 12:14; 22:15; 26:59-61; cf. John 2:19-21).

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## Opposition

2. They tried to destroy His reputation. (John 10:20; Matthew 11:16-19).
3. They misrepresented His teaching. (Luke 23:1-2; John 19:12)
  - a. What he really taught. cf. Matthew 22:15-22; John 18:36).
4. Accused Him of violating the Sabbath. (Luke 6:6-11; 13:11-17; John 5:1-16; Matthew 9:32-34).

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## Antagonistic Environment

- Gentile world. Romans 1:18-32 (Ephesians 2:1-3, 11,12; 4:17-19; and 1 Peter 4:1-5; cf. 1 Corinthians)
- Jewish world. (See Romans 2:1-3; 3:23).
  - Ignorance.
  - Politics.
  - Hypocrisy.

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## Waning Interest

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

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## What Did Jesus Do?

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

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## What Did Jesus Do?

- Matthew 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."

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- "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).

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