

SPIRITUAL AMNESIA?

Sometimes we act as though we've forgotten God's word - like we've got spiritual amnesia. However, is the problem that we've innocently forgotten His word . . . or do we purposefully ignore it? Let's dig in and encourage one another by committing to address sin in our lives head on!

So quick to forget . . .

1 Samuel 24:16-22; 26:21-25

- Don't act like you forgot this one!

2 Kings 8:7-15

- You heard me, right?

Luke 22:31-34

- Remember what happens?

Mark 14:32-42

- It can happen to good people!

Why does it happen?

Matthew 13:18-19

- They don't understand the word of the kingdom. Because they can't? I don't believe so. Just not that important. They're not understanding the gravity of what they're doing. Kind of like those who will be punished for not knowing God. Why? Because they couldn't know? Read Romans 10! No, they don't want to know Christ. These are a shallow/surface like people. Not probably likely to happen among this audience. This audience is made up of people who clearly know the Lord. But does that mean everyone hear is truly taking what they know to heart?

James 1:19-25

- James is making a simple point - address what you see.
- Why do we struggle?
- We're not talking about those who are working some things out - sincerely working things out. I'm not talking about some thing that may have been honestly overlooked (like accidentally looking over a mustard stain on your shirt). They can be discovered (and many times are) over time. We're talking about deliberate spiritual stains that we refuse to deal with.

Mark 8:14-21

- Jesus is concerned that they don't yet understand His Lordship because of hard hearts. This is actually confirmed earlier in Mark 6:52. Hard hearts are at . . . wait for it . . . the heart of the issue. Here's what that can look like:

- **John 8:21-25, 42-43**

- Did they not hear about Jesus say they would die in their sins? Even those who "believed" were still struggling. Jesus finally asks, "It is because you cannot bear to hear My word."
- **John 9:24-27**
 - The Pharisees sure did seem like there were seeking the truth, didn't they? Well, no. They didn't want to address the obvious - what was clear to see.
 - Sometimes we act as if we're addressing the problem, but we're doing things our way. The Pharisees hoped that intimidation and a wearing down would give them what they desired. Perhaps we think that doing things our own way will work. Do we feel like we're making progress because we're staying busy? Bottom line: none of this is actually difficult. It's a heart issue.

The answer?

- Humility.

God's answer?

- **Matthew 13:15** For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'