

# "When Times Are Tough"

## We Find Out Who We Really Are, Pt. 2

Matthew 15:1-20 **Growth Group Questions** October 30, 2011

1. This past week did you have any new insight or experience with this concept: "We may never know what is inside our hearts until pressure is applied."
2. Can you give an example from your life of the stress/pressure caused by losing something or someone significant? What did it reveal in your life?
3. What holiday stress/pressure do you dread the most? Do you have a plan for handling it? Does it work? Is it godly? What does it say about your heart? Take time as a group to pray for each other and the stress that comes with the holidays.
4. Which would you say you are more naturally drawn to, the letter of the law or the spirit of the law? Why?
5. Consider Matt. 15:7-9. Are there areas of your life where you are guilty of the same? If so, with God's help, what are you willing to do about it?
6. According to II Thess. 3:14-15, what responsibility do we have to those whose practices/habits are contrary to Scripture? What keeps us from doing so? How would II Thess 3:16 help us in this pursuit?
7. Remember, Jesus said to Peter, "Are you still so dull?" Can you recall a time when one of your parents said something similar to you? Was the problem that you didn't understand what they said or rather was it that you understood, you just didn't want to learn or obey? What does that tell you about your heart? (e.g. Peter: Matt. 15:15-16; Acts 10:14; Gal. 2:11-13)
8. If we don't want to obey, then we are saying we don't want to mature. Agree or disagree? Are there any benefits to not maturing in Christ?
9. What connection do you see between Biblical maturity and the ability to withstand the storms of life? (Matt. 7:24-27)
10. You can know what is in your heart by what comes out of your mouth. Agree or disagree? Why? Can a person make a caustic statement but then "take it back" by saying, "I didn't really mean it."?
11. In the storms of life, can you see that God thinks highly enough of you to make an investment in you; that the storm is a way of making that investment? (cf. James 1:2-4)
12. In their pursuit of happiness the Boomer Generation has experienced a ten fold increase in depression when compared to the previous generation. What does this tell you? What hope is there for the next generations if we don't get back to having hearts sold out to Jesus?



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