

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2ND–3RD, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

### AGAIN? (MARK 8:1–10)

#### "...AGAIN A LARGE CROWD"

Here we have a similar but separate event to the feeding of the 5,000. This time Jesus miraculously fed a large crowd of both Greeks and Jews in the Decapolis.

- The mixture of all kinds of people foreshadowed the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19.

#### GOD DECLARES WHO IS "CLEAN"

The Phoenician woman's daughter, the deaf man, and the feeding of the 4,000 contrast the practice of ceremonial washing (Ch. 7) and demonstrate that God determines who is "clean."

- **"Only God can judge" does not negate accountability. We have a responsibility to identify evil according to Scripture.**

#### TWO KINDS OF HUNGER

The crowd, Jesus, and the 12 had not eaten in three days, and He was concerned for their well-being (v. 3). They also seemed to be in a more remote area than the previous miracle.

- **Because the people had a spiritual hunger first (Matthew 6), Jesus provided what they needed when they needed it.**

#### SIMILAR, BUT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT

Like with the 5,000, Jesus asked what they had. This time it was seven loaves and two fish. Again, Jesus had them sit, looked up, prayed, and had the 12 distribute the food to the crowd.

- **We are reminded that what we bring to Jesus is inadequate, but in submitting it into His hands, great things happen.**

#### "SEVEN LARGE BASKETS"

Not only was everyone satisfied, but there were also seven baskets of leftover food large enough for a person to get into.

- So, after everyone's spiritual and physical needs were met, Jesus and the 12 got into a boat and went to the region of Dalmanutha (west side of Galilee).

### A WARNING (MARK 8:11–21)

#### "THE PHARISEES CAME AND BEGAN TO ARGUE"

As Jesus returned to a predominantly Jewish area, He again encountered disbelief. The Pharisees demanded a sign, **though Jesus had done many miracles and spoke amazing truths right in front of them.**

- **The problem was not evidence but an unwillingness to see it.**

#### WILLING BLINDNESS AND IGNORANCE

Like Pharisees, many today refuse to see truth because of pride and the recognition that truth may contradict their desires.

- Unfortunately, some have become so hardened that even evidence is not convincing. **In rebellion and ignorance, we remain "blind" and continue to spiral.**

#### "AN EVIL...GENERATION DEMANDS A SIGN" (MATTHEW 12)

If one has the desire to see, there is evidence all around us that points to a Creator God. Jesus has done (and still does) miraculous things, but **we should never be so arrogant to demand God perform for us.**

- "Well, if He would just show me, I would believe..."

#### IN THEIR ANNOYANCE, THE 12 FORGOT LUNCH

As they looked at the one loaf they had, Jesus gave "strict orders" to "beware of the leaven" of the Pharisees (religion) and Herod (government).

- **Jesus warned His followers not to adopt the culture of religion or politics because it distorts the gospel and misaligns the mission of the Church.**

#### THEY WERE MISSING THE POINTS

The 12 thought Jesus was mad about the bread. "Aware of this," Jesus rebuked them for worrying about provision (4,000 and 5,000).

- **If we are not careful, life can distract us from deeper spiritual lessons and the assurance that Jesus has our best interests at the forefront of His mind.**

### NO FORMULA (MARK 8:22–26)

#### A BLIND MAN IN BETHSAIDA

A blind man was brought to Jesus by some friends. Jesus took the man "by the hand...out of the village," and then spit on his eyes, laid His hands on him, and asked if he could see anything.

- Jesus knew the man needed to get away from the noise, people, and distractions.

#### TREES WALKING?

Oddly, the man replied that he saw people, but they resembled "trees walking." The man was not fully healed, but there is no clear reason why. Jesus then placed His hands on him again, and his sight was fully restored.

- What we learn is that, **many times, healing is done in stages over time.**

#### GOD WILL DO THINGS HOW HE CHOOSES

We also learn that Jesus works in many ways, and it is not always formulaic.

- **Jesus' actions will not contradict the nature we learn of Him in the Bible, but in God's wisdom, He restores us as He sees fit. We will all receive full healing/restoration in eternity.**

### IDENTITY (MARK 8:27–33)

#### MOVING ON TO ANOTHER AREA

On the road to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked Peter and the other 11 an interesting question: "Who do people say that I am?"

- There were many opinions about Jesus, but He wanted the disciples to come to their own conclusions based on **His Word, His example, and sensitivity to the Spirit.**

#### "BUT YOU...WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

Matthew 16:13–20 has more detail. Peter was being humble in his account to Mark. But Peter's responses here and in Matthew show that God drew Peter to Him and Peter responded correctly.

- **We are all drawn to some degree. The question is how/if we will respond.**

#### "YOU ARE THE MESSIAH"

The disciples were "warned...to tell no one about Him" because Jesus knew they did not fully understand His role and identity yet.

- **Preference and culture do not determine Jesus' role or identity—only His Word does. Not understanding His identity has serious consequences.**

#### SPEAKING MORE STRAIGHTFORWARDLY (V. 31)

Jesus begins to speak more clearly about His mission. He did not come to build a political kingdom but as a suffering Savior to build a heavenly Kingdom.

- Jesus came to "suffer many things," be rejected by the religious establishment, and "be killed, and rise after three days."

#### REBUKING JESUS?

After hearing Jesus would suffer and die, Peter pulled Him aside and "began to rebuke [Jesus]." This led to Jesus' most stern rebuke towards anyone in the New Testament.

- Jesus was not calling Peter Satan but saying that Peter was being used by Satan to tempt Him in that moment.

#### "NOT THINKING ABOUT GOD'S CONCERNS"

This sounds extreme, but when we think more about our desires and concerns than God's desires for us, we become instruments for satanic thought and action.

- **We must rebuke the principles of evil and be willing to be rebuked if we start to adopt those principles.**

### TWO NEEDS, TWO HUNGERS

- God knows we need provision for our daily needs, but we are to first hunger and thirst for the things of God (Matthew 6:25–33).
- Hunger means we take initiative to know and trust God and to live in His ways. **Christians are to be people unsatisfied with stagnation and apathy.**

### LEAVEN IN THE BREAD

- Jesus warns us not to allow things into our lives that distort our understanding of Him and His Word.
- When we **deviate from the Bible and adopt the principles of man-made religion, politics, or the culture of the world, we get misaligned and drift towards chaos.**

### RESTORATION IS A PROCESS

- Jesus has the ability to instantly heal and restore, but it is often a process that builds **trust, endurance, and patience** in us.
- We have to trust in God's timing and understand that this body is decaying. One day, **we will all be fully restored if we persevere in our faith in Christ.**

### REBUKING SATAN

- We must be hungry, wise, and very clear in our stance against evil. **The work and principles of Satan and sin must be clearly identified via the Bible and clearly rebuked** to protect ourselves, others, and the mission of Christ and the Church.

### REBUKING SELF

- In order to rebuke Satan and sin, we must learn to **deny ourselves**. This means **we cannot let selfishness and self-centeredness take root** because **they will impede spiritual hunger, wisdom, and the ability to overcome Satan and sin through the Spirit.**