

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 3RD, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

THE SECOND FEEDING OF THE MULTITUDES (MARK 8:1–10) A SHIFT IN PERSPECTIVE AND A CHANGE OF HEART

The events of Chapters 7 and 8 take place in the region of the Decapolis, where the demon-possessed man was healed and the crowds once begged Jesus to leave but now flock to Him.

- We do not know if it was the testimony of the man that turned the hearts of these individuals, but whatever the catalyst, **it was a move of the Spirit that transformed hearts.**

SOME SIMILARITIES BUT SEVERAL DIFFERENCES

Though some have thought this is a retelling of the feeding in 6:35–44, it is a completely different one. The feeding of the 5,000 was in a Jewish region, whereas the feeding of the 4,000 takes place in a predominately Gentile region.

- Jesus is using these miracles to show that **the Kingdom of God will be made up of all people sharing in the Lord's Supper** (Galatians 3:28).

THREE DAYS WITH NOTHING TO EAT

We see a **spiritual hunger growing** on the part of the multitude as they **stay with Jesus for three days with nothing to eat.**

- Like Ezekiel and the Psalmist, is the Word of God **sweeter than honey in our mouths** (Ezekiel 3:3; Psalm 119:103)? Are we like the crowds, **seeking the Kingdom first** (Matthew 6:33), then witnessing God provide for our needs?

WE TOO CAN BE SLOW TO PERCEIVE

The disciples were slow to perceive who Jesus was. They so quickly seemed to forget how He fed the 5,000 and questioned how they would provide for 4,000.

- We quickly forget the things that God has done in our lives. **We should view God's faithfulness in the past as a promise to meet our needs in the future.**

"THEY ATE AND WERE SATISFIED"

Once again, Jesus uses what little the disciples had to do a lot. He takes seven loaves and a few small fish, blesses them, and distributes them so that everyone could eat and be satisfied.

- At the end, seven large baskets of leftover pieces were gathered. We must **be careful not to force "hidden" meanings** that the author is not including.

A WARNING (MARK 8:11–21)

"DEMANDING OF HIM A SIGN...TO TEST HIM."

Jesus and His disciples left the faith they found in a Gentile region for the disbelief of the religious leaders in Galilee.

- **The Pharisees requested a sign from Heaven** and not "small potatoes" like His previous miracles. They wanted **fire from Heaven like in the days of Elijah** (1 Kings 18), or **manna from Heaven like in the days of Moses** (Exodus 16).

UNABLE TO CHANGE A MIND SO MADE UP

Jesus was grieved ("sighing deeply in his spirit") by their unbelief. Jesus departs from them, not granting their arrogant and prideful demand. **Jesus rebukes those who demand signs and those who think that signs alone will lead to belief.**

- Luke tells us **those who are set in their ways against the Lord will not be convinced, even if a person is raised from the dead.**

OBJECT LESSON

In their quick departure, the disciples had forgotten to bring food with them on the boat and only had one loaf of bread between the 13 of them.

- Jesus uses the moment to teach His disciples, warning them to **"Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."**

IMPROPER VIEW OF THE KINGDOM

Here, the leaven Jesus talks about is not just yeast, where a little leaven corrupts the whole batch (Galatians 5:9). It refers to a pinch of dough taken from one lump of dough and added to another lump to make it rise and "puff up."

- Jesus is warning His disciples not to **share in the prideful and arrogant view of the Kingdom held by the Pharisees and Herod.**

"DO YOU...?"

It is possible the disciples were blaming each other for not having enough food when Jesus interrupted. He asked a series of questions to reveal that **they still were too influenced by the thinking of this world.**

- They failed to see the spiritual meaning and that **Jesus could and would meet the needs of those seeking God's Kingdom.**
- Instead of looking at the disciples and condemning their slowness and dullness to the truth, it would benefit us all to read Jesus' questions as if they are being asked of us.
- Have we allowed **the physical situations of this life to blind us from spiritual truths?** Do we understand **the depth of God's love for us**, or have our hearts hardened in doubt?

NOT SEEING CLEARLY (MARK 8:22–33)

GOD RESTORES SIGHT TO THE SPIRITUALLY BLIND

Jesus miraculously restored the man's sight by His power and possibly only used His spit to separate the man's eyelids for him to see clearly.

- This is the only miracle of Jesus that we see done in parts or gradually. It may be that Jesus chose this method to show His disciples that **their spiritual blindness will be healed, but gradually.**

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

As the disciples' knowledge of Jesus grew, He wanted to know just how much they had grown in understanding. After the disciples give a list of who others claimed Jesus to be, He asks, **"Who do you say that I am?"**

- It is one thing to know what others think about Jesus, but **Jesus wants to know what we believe about Him as individuals.**

HIS VIEW WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR

Matthew (16:17–18) records the fullness of Peter's acknowledgement of Jesus as the Messiah and Jesus' response to Peter's view of Him.

- Peter was correct about who Jesus was, but it seems there may have been a **misunderstanding of what the mission of the Messiah was.**

THE SUFFERING SERVANT (ISAIAH 53)

Jesus tells His disciples not to tell anyone because they did not yet fully understand the ministry of the Messiah and the time for Him to suffer had not yet come.

- For the first time, Jesus speaks to His disciples of His **upcoming suffering at the hands of the elders, chief priest, and scribes; His death; and His resurrection.**

"GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!"

The idea of a suffering Messiah was unthinkable to Peter, so he pulls Jesus aside and begins to rebuke Him.

- Jesus then looks at the disciples and rebukes Peter, recognizing **the satanic influence in discouraging Him from His mission**, which would lead to His death on a cross and resurrection after three days.

ARE WE SEEING CLEARLY?

- The stubbornness and rebellion of the Pharisees kept them blind and deaf while others were healed. Do our stubbornness and rebellion keep us from **seeing who Jesus is and hearing the truth of His Word?**
- Is there something **drowning out the voice of God in our lives?** Is there something **distorting our view of ourselves and God?**

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

- The answer to this question determines everything in our lives.
- If we say Jesus was a liar or lunatic, then we reject His divinity, reducing Him to a myth, a legend, or simply a good teacher. When we do this, we **use our own opinions and feelings as a barometer for right and wrong, essentially making ourselves god.**
- If we say Jesus is Lord, we are saying we believe His claim of divinity—that **He is God.**
- If we believe Jesus' claim of divinity, then **we must believe everything He claims.**
- Jesus promised that if we seek His Kingdom first, then everything else will be taken care of. He promised to give us new hearts—to change and transform us. **Do we believe it?**