

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 3RD, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

HUNGER (MARK 8:1-10) "THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT"

As we have already seen in Mark, enormous crowds followed Jesus all around the Sea of Galilee. This one is different than the 5,000 crowd and is said to be at least 4,000.

- This group has been with Jesus for three days and now has nothing left to eat.
- **How important is it for us to hear from Christ? Are our thoughts on our next meal for our bodies? Do we have time to listen?**

"I HAVE COMPASSION ON THE CROWD"

Jesus recognizes the crowd's devotion, their physical need, and the hardship that impacted those coming from a great distance.

- They mattered to Jesus. He cared about their spiritual, emotional, and physical states.
- **He cares for us today. He sees why we are here and the circumstances we are dealing with. He still has a plan.**

"HOW MANY LOAVES DO YOU HAVE?"

Once again, the disciples can see the problem and are stumped for an answer.

- Jesus asks the same question and, this time, there are a few more loaves to work with, but it will be no less of a miracle.
- Jesus takes the loaves and fish, blesses them, then has the disciples share with the crowd.
- The power of God was revealed again.

"THEY ATE AND WERE SATISFIED"

The people eat and are satisfied. There was enough for everyone.

- Seven baskets of leftovers are collected. He gave more than they needed.
- He sends them home with compassion. He knew they would collapse on the way home. Now, they would remember His words and actions.
- **Christ has a heart of compassion for us, not just words of wisdom. He sees us, hears us, and has a plan to satisfy us. What are we hungry for?**

SEEING (MARK 8:11-21) DEMANDING A SIGN

The Pharisees who were following Jesus around begin to argue with Him. They had seen and heard enough to realize that He was claiming to be the Messiah.

- They sought a sign, not to affirm Him but to invalidate His statements and actions.
- **What do we expect from Jesus? What conditions have we placed on our surrender?**

"NO SIGN WILL BE GIVEN"

They ask for a sign, but several signs had already been given: miracle upon miracle in different places with different people. Thousands had seen and received miracles through Jesus. And there are more to come.

- **Jesus is not a performer. He is not on our payroll. He serves but He is not a slave. He is our Savior because of what He has done, not because of what we tell Him to do!**

FORGOTTEN BREAD

Jesus and His disciples leave the religious mafia and get back into the boat. As they travel across the sea, they realize they left the baskets of bread and have only one loaf to feed the whole crew.

- Jesus tells them to "Watch out!" because others would try to teach another gospel.
- It goes right over their heads, and they just step up their discussion about bread.

"DO YOU HAVE EYES AND NOT SEE...?"

The disciples had hardened hearts and had forgotten much more than bread.

- They had seen Him perform many miracles. They had been given power to perform miracles. They had counted the baskets of leftovers. Now, they could only see one loaf.
- **If we overlook how Jesus has worked in our lives, we will not be prepared for the trials we face today and tomorrow.**

UNDERSTANDING (MARK 8:22-33) THE BLIND MAN

As they enter the hometown of Philip, Andrew, and Peter, the people bring a blind man to Jesus for healing.

- As with other miracles, Jesus was not trying to make a public spectacle or draw attention to Himself. This was about meeting a need, not making a show.
- **Do we expect (want) grandeur? Do we want to be big, be part of something big, and hang out with the big guy? Jesus may not show up if all we want is to show off.**

THE PROCESS

The man is not completely healed immediately. Jesus touches the man twice, and his vision becomes clearer each time.

- Jesus' power was not limited. Instead, He took an opportunity to teach His disciples something about understanding.
- **Once our eyes are opened to WHO Jesus is and WHAT He has done for us, we can BEGIN to see. Knowing Him does not mean there is not more to know. Knowing Him means we can now begin to know Him MORE.**

"WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT I AM?"

The disciples knew Jesus and were learning from Him every day.

- The response to this question reveals what the crowds had seen.
- Some had heard of John the Baptist and assumed Jesus was the same man. Others believed He was Elijah, returned to continue the work of a great prophet. Or, maybe He was some other prophet sent to the people.

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

Peter answers quickly: "The Messiah."

- All of the other responses failed to see that Jesus is the divine Messiah on whom Israel and Judah had set their hopes of deliverance.
- Because of some understanding, the disciples reasoned their way to the correct conclusion.
- **It was a beginning, but they had not emotionally and volitionally committed to believing. They would not have the strength to endure what was coming.**

SUFFERING AND REJECTION

For the first time, Jesus tells His disciples what being the Messiah would involve.

- They were looking for victory, not defeat.
- As quickly as Peter affirmed Jesus, he rebukes Him.
- Even Peter had an idea of what the Savior should look like and do. He was wrong.
- **Sometimes, we are wrong. How will we respond when we find out just how wrong we are?**

WRONG THINKING

Jesus is quick, harsh, and clear in His response.

- Peter was not confused. He had adopted Satan's way of thinking, which involved rejecting God's revealed truth for mere human logic.
- **Jesus was the Messiah. But there could be no kingly glory without the suffering of the cross. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus, there could be no atonement for sin and no salvation. How does our thinking compare to God's plan?**

IDEAS

- We all have ideas about Jesus.
- **Some of our ideas serve our needs and some serve God.**
- **When we begin to elevate what we think Jesus should do and be, we place ourselves above Christ. The problem is Jesus is not the one who needs to change.**

CONFORM

- We do not like to conform.
- **Our culture and our nature drive us to be strong and independent.**
- **The reality is that we all conform. We deceive ourselves and believe we are completely in control. We will either see with the world's eyes or see with the eyes given to us by Christ.**

BELIEF

- Belief is accepting that something is true.
- **We see so many things and believe that they are true. EVERYTHING cannot be true.**
- **We desire to believe in Christ—to accept all He has done for us and enjoy His blessings. What are we going to do when what He says does not match what we want? What we see next may be up to us.**