

Mark Chapter 8

Orientation: **Mark7:31** Departing Tyre & Sidon, coming to the Sea of Galilee, through the coasts / borders of the Decapolis.

- Jesus has just healed the deaf & dumb man and they are greatly amazed.

V: 1-3 Having had a great multitude around Him, teaching them for 3 days straight.

- Jesus has “compassion” on the multitude.
- Compassion: (G-4697). splagchnizomai, splangkh-nid'-zom-ahee; to have the bowels yearn, i.e. (fig.) feel sympathy, to pity:--have (be moved with) compassion.

Psalm 103:14 “For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.”

- He understands when we're tired and out of sorts, when we're weak, not up to the task – He has compassion upon us!
- Some have come from far away and may not make it home because they haven't eaten.
 1. Long / lengthy Bible studies – Jesus invented.
 2. So focused, engrossed in the Word that they forgot to eat.

Matthew 4:4 “... it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

- Jesus met their spiritual need first, then He met their physical need: priorities.

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?...”

V: 4 His disciples respond with “how can we feed them?” We're out in the middle of no where...

- They have forgotten the lesson taught, not necessarily learned when Jesus fed the 5,000 + women and children.
- They also forgot their history, 40 years in the wilderness and manna from Heaven.

- V: 5 This is more than an ordinary question, this is a clue, this should prompt them a little to recall the last time they were asked this question.
- V: 6 Following the same pattern as with the 4,000. Giving thanks / blessing, breaking, giving.
- V: 7-9 They add a few small fish to the meal, multiplying them for the multitude.
- Everyone ate until they were full and they had 7 baskets left over.
 - 4,000 + women and children. (Matthew 15:38)
- V: 10 Map – into the boat and across to Dalmanutha / Magdala – present Migdal.
- V: 11 The Pharisees approached Jesus – He had been moving around quite a bit, probably difficult to locate – probably waited in a likely spot where He's known to frequent.
- He's the One with the crowd – multitude all around Him.
 - They began to question, dispute, or challenge Jesus.

“Seeking a sign from heaven”

- From their skewed perspective, all the miracles that Jesus had been doing were “earthly” or fleshly – they wanted to see something “from heaven”.
- The Pharisees had a doctrine that Satan could do miracles on Earth, but that only God could work miracles in Heaven or the sky.
 - They believed that Jesus' miracles were earthly because they involved men, and earthly things. Show us *“a sign from heaven”*, make the clouds part, change the color of the sun and stars.
- Jesus' miracles of healing, raising the dead, feeding multitudes, calming storms etc. were all done on Earth and didn't qualify as being done by God hence *“show us a sign from Heaven.”*
- They had been told what the signs would be long before.

Isaiah 35:5-6 ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

❖ The world basically says the same thing today. We say to God, “reveal yourself to me, and I’ll believe in you.” God, who is holding all the cards, says, “believe in me, and I’ll reveal myself to you.”

- They didn’t lack evidence; they lacked a willing heart to receive, they also lacked honesty & humility.

Jeremiah 17:23 “But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.”

John tells us, speaking of Jesus:

John 12:37 “³⁷But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him: ³⁸That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

2 Peter 3:5 “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.”

- Testing Him...

V: 12-13 Jesus is seemingly weary of their questions and tells them they will not receive what they are looking for, Jesus won’t put on a show for them – they either believe or they don’t.

Matthew 16:3, 4 “³... O ye hypocrites.... ⁴A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas...”

- Jesus leaves them there, departing for Bethsaida.
- Miracles, signs, and wonders – don’t produce faith – only the Word of God does that.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

V: 14 As Jesus and the disciples took off to the other side towards Bethsaida they forgot to take bread with them, although there was already one loaf in the boat.

V: 15-16 The disciples are thinking about bread – worldly things, and Jesus is thinking about the Pharisees.

- Got milk? Commercials.
 1. Take heed – be careful.
 2. Leaven = sin
 3. The sin of the Pharisees and of Herod: the sin of hypocrisy / un-belief.

V: 17-21 The disciples are worried about not having enough bread, right after Jesus had multiplied the loaves and the fishes for the 2nd time right in front of them – didn't they believe that He could do it again?

- Same faith test, slightly different circumstances.
- It was right in front of them all along, they just didn't recognize it for what it was.
- It was the same ingredient that kept the Pharisees and Herod from seeing the miracles: lack of faith.

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

Mark 9:24 “... Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

V: 22-26 Jesus just gets done talking to them about their blindness and upon landing at Bethsaida they bring a blind man to Jesus.

V: 23 Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of town – away from his familiar surroundings. (Distractions?)

- Jesus spit in his eyes and laid hands on him, asking him what he saw.

V: 24 The man saw men like trees, not very clearly still out of focus.

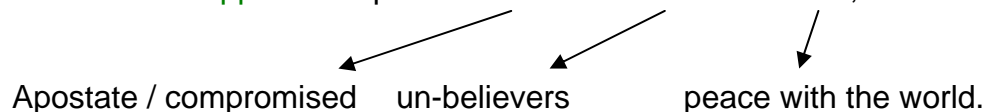
V: 25 Jesus places His hands upon the blind man's eyes and made him look up – and he was then able to see clearly.

- Until we have a heavenly focus we can't see clearly either.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

V: 26 Don't go back into town, don't tell anyone in the town, just go home.

V: 27-28 **Caesarea Philippi** – Decapolis. Hellenistic Jews & Gentiles, ecumenism.



James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- Question: “who do men say that I am?” This question has already been debated some by the people:

John 7:40-43 “⁴⁰Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, of a truth this is the Prophet. ⁴¹Others said, this is the Christ. But some said, shall Christ come out of Galilee? ⁴²Hath not the scripture said, that Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? ⁴³So there was a division among the people because of Him.”

- Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist.
- Elisha – forerunner to the Messiah, did miracles.
- Jeremiah – weeping, compassionate.
- Prophet(s) – good teacher.

All complimentary, but missing the mark.

V: 29 Now it gets personal – who do you say I am?

- Christ: Messiah, the Anointed One.

Matthew 16:17 “Blessed are thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven.”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “... no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”

V: 30-31 Jesus begins to teach them about the cross – the plan for redemption.

- In Matthew Jesus said that He would build His church – it would be built upon the cross, and the confession that Jesus is Lord.
- Notice that He would be killed – “...*and after three days rise again*.”
- We must know who He is to appreciate what He’s done.

V: 32-33 Proclaiming Jesus as Messiah one moment; then rejecting & contradicting the Word of God the very next.

- At that moment, Peter didn’t realize it, but he was telling Jesus to be the Savior apart from the cross – just as when Satan tempted Jesus – don’t go to the cross.
- Thus the rebuke to the enemy who was the author of both.

V: 34 Jesus couldn't deny the cross, and if we're going to follow Him – we can't deny it either, we must take it up and follow Him.

- Not self denial, denial of self – it is the understanding that “I can't do it” – I need Jesus!

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

V: 35 What do we value more, this life or life eternal?

V: 36-37 There is nothing we can trade for our salvation. There is nothing in this life that truly compares to eternity – yet people trade away everlasting life every day.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Psalm 49:6-8 “⁶They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; ⁷None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: ⁸For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever.”

V: 38 Jesus always calls us out publicly – no middle ground, we must make a choice.

Matthew 10:32-33 “³²Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”