

MARK 8

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

1 [For ver. 1-10, see Matt. 15:32-39; [ch. 6:32-44]] In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, 2 [Matt. 9:36] **“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”** 4And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” 5And he asked them, **“How many loaves do you have?”** They said, [Matt. 16:10] “Seven.” 6And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and [ch. 14:23; Matt. 26:27; Luke 22:17, 19; John 6:11, 23; Acts 27:35; Rom. 14:6; 1 Cor. 10:30; 11:24; 14:16; 1 Tim. 4:3, 4] having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. 7And they had a few small fish. And [See Matt. 14:19] having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. 8And [2 Kgs. 4:42-44] they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, [See ver. 5 above] seven baskets full. 9And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. 10And immediately he got into [See ch. 3:9] the boat with his disciples and went to the district of [Matt. 15:39] Dalmanutha. 8:10 Some manuscripts *Magadan*, or *Magdala*

- ***The low hanging fruit here is that the disciples only 2 chapters earlier had seen Jesus feed 5,000 men (+women/children)***
 - ***Now there are 4,000 people and they immediately question how bread could be found in that desolate place***

- *I'm not sure if the disciples thought that Jesus would eventually run out of power/miracles*
- *But whatever they were thinking they were missing his points.*
- *Parts of the Gospels like these help me believe that the Bible is true*
 - *People, like the disciples would not write about themselves this way if they were making the story up*
 - *They would have written about how great and grand their faith was*
 - *How they went through everything with Jesus, 100% believing he was to be the blood sacrifice for sin, and on and on*
 - *But, they didn't.*
 - *They wrote about themselves in the most unflattering, embarrassing ways*
 - *They exposed themselves as having little faith, over and over again.*
 - *Why would anybody do that unless it were true.*
- *The people here were so dedicated to Jesus that they had been with him for 3 days*
 - *Not 3 hours, but days, and they were apparently skipping meals or slowly eating what they had brought to make it last until Jesus was finished*
 - *4,000 people didn't want to miss a thing*
 - *WOW, I need more of that in my life*

- ***The person who said, I have been holding on to these 7 loaves of bread, but I believe Jesus can do more with them than I can***
 - ***Think about that, this man/woman/boy/girl might not have eaten for 2 days and was planning to eat this before they started home in order to make it back***
 - ***What happens if Jesus doesn't come through?***
 - ***They don't make it home? Maybe.***
 - ***And this person's faith causes another person to make the same sacrifice***
- ***Our commitment and our faith can have positive impacts of people around us.***
 - ***But, lack of faith and commitment can also hurt the people around us.***

The Pharisees Demand a Sign

11 For ver. 11-21, see Matt. 16:1-12 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, 1 Cor. 1:22; See Matt. 12:38 seeking from him Luke 11:16; 21:11 a sign from heaven John 8:6 to test him. 12And ch. 7:34 he sighed deeply John 11:33 in his spirit and said, ***“Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.”*** 13And Matt. 4:13; 21:17 he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

- ***The Pharisees said a sign would confirm he was from heaven***
 - ***But look at all the signs they were already looking past***
 - ***He had healed people, raised from the dead, blind see, lame walk, Jesus walked on water, Calms storms, feeds thousand with a meal for one.***

- *All of these had happened, and they were still seeking more*
- *Friends, if we can't find it in ourselves to believe Jesus is who He said he was by the signs we have already been given, we will simply explain away the next sign*
 - *There would be no sign good enough to convince us*
 - *Holy Spirit must work in us, and open our eyes to help us see who Jesus is*
 - *Anything seen/heard without guidance from the Holy Spirit will only be explained away as another action of Satan or a coincidence*

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, **“Watch out; Luke 12:1 beware of 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9 the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of [ch. 3:6; 12:13] Herod.”** 8:15 Some manuscripts *the Herodians* 16 And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Matt. 26:10 Jesus, aware of this, said to them, **“Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? ch. 7:18 Do you not yet perceive ch. 6:52 or understand? ch. 6:52 Are your hearts hardened? 18 Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2; [Isa. 42:18, 19; 43:8; Matt. 13:13] Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? 19 When I broke ch. 6:41, 44 the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”** They said to him, “Twelve.” 20 **“And ver. 6, 9 the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”** And they said to him, “Seven.” 21 And he said to them, **“Do you not yet understand?”**

- ***Again, why would the disciples record such stories if they wanted to start a religion with themselves as the leaders?***
 - ***They are in the journey away from the 2nd feeding of massive crowds and they have already forgotten.***
 - ***The disciples were worried Jesus would find out they only had 1 loaf***
 - ***I'm not sure what happened to the 7 baskets they had just collected***
 - ***Perhaps they were all thinking they were too important to load cargo onto the boat***
 - ***Or perhaps they gave it to the poor***
 - ***Or perhaps they simply forgot it***
 - ***These men either didn't think Jesus had the power to take care of them all the time***
 - ***OR, that He didn't care enough about 12 of them to take care of them***
 - ***Maybe Jesus would be willing to perform miracles for the 4,000, but asking him to do a miracle for only 12 is too petty***
 - ***Jesus intended not only to care for them physically but also spiritually***
- ***The pharisees wanted a sign, Jesus told the disciples to be careful or they could be infected with the same desires***
 - ***The disciples would eventually see the opposite of a sign from heaven***
 - ***Jesus would be arrested, tortured and killed before their eyes***

- *If their faith relied on signs and miracles ONLY where would they be when that happened?*
- *They would fall away, heartbroken because their Messiah was crushed*
- *The disciples were too busy to understand because they were concerned about having no bread*
 - *They not only missed Jesus's lesson, but they couldn't even believe even after they witnessed and ate from his miracles*
- *We must guard ourselves*
 - *We may find ourselves doubting in a time of need, or pain, and ask God for a sign*
 - *Understand He is able to do and give anything He wants, but He's not required to do so*
 - *Don't overlook the signs you have already experienced and witnessed when you need comfort*

Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida

22And they came [\[See ch. 6:45\]](#) to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23And [\[ch. 7:33\]](#) he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when [\[ch. 7:33\]](#) he had [\[John 9:6\]](#) spit on his eyes and [\[See ch. 5:23\]](#) laid his hands on him, he asked him, **"Do you see anything?"** 24And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." 25Then Jesus [\[8:25 Greek *he*\]](#) laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26And he sent him to his home, saying, [\[ver. 23; \[Matt. 8:4\]\]](#) **"Do not even enter the village."**

- ***There are a lot of interpretations of this passage***
 - ***Jesus gradually exposed this man to his full sight***
 - ***This man must have not been born blind, because he knew how to describe trees***
 - ***One view is Jesus gave him a little at a time***
 - ***Some of us need this type of healing, a little grace at a time***
 - ***For us to see just how bad of shape we are in and in need of a savior***
 - ***Jesus used this man to eventually bring a full recovery***
 - ***He can and will do the same for us***
 - ***Jesus gave him sight to the spiritual world***
 - ***I see people who look like trees walking***
 - ***What if that's referring to the height of the people he sees?***
 - ***Why didn't he say, "I see your face, Jesus."?***
 - ***What if Jesus gave him the brief insight into a world that we can't see in order to provide him with a new story to tell to others?***

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

27 For ver. 27-29, see Matt. 16:13-16; Luke 9:18-20 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say that I am?”** 28 And they told him, ch. 6:14; Matt. 14:2; Luke 9:7 “John the Baptist; and others say, Luke 9:8; [ch. 9:11; Matt. 17:10; John 1:21] Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” 29 And he asked them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Peter answered him, John 11:27 “You are ch. 14:61, 62;

See Matt. 1:17 the Christ.” 30 Matt. 16:20; Luke 9:21; See Matt. 12:16 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- **To quote the English writer C.S. Lewis**
 - **Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord**
 - **Jesus cannot be a prophet without being a liar**
 - **He cannot be confused about claiming to be the Messiah unless he was a lunatic**
 - **He is Lord.**
 - **We need to remember that an treat him accordingly**
- **Notice Jesus was not concerned about what they other people said about Him**
 - **It came down to “who do you say that I am?”**
 - **That is the most important question you and I can ever answer.**

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

31 For ch. 8:31–9:1, see Matt. 16:21-28; Luke 9:22-27 And he began to teach them that ch. 10:33; [Luke 13:33] the Son of Man must ch. 9:30, 31; Matt. 17:12, 22, 23; Luke 24:7 suffer many things and Luke 17:25; 1 Pet. 2:4; [ch. 12:10] be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and ch. 10:34; Matt. 27:63; [Matt. 12:40]; See John 2:19 after three days rise again. 32 And he said this John 16:25 plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, [Matt. 4:10] **“Get behind me, Satan! For you Rom. 8:5; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:2; [Phil. 2:5] are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”**

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, **“If anyone would come after me, let him [2 Tim. 2:12, 13] deny himself and See Matt. 10:38,**

39 take up his cross and follow me. 35 For [See ver. 34 above] whoever would save his life [8:35 The same Greek word can mean either *soul* or *life*, depending on the context; twice in this verse and once in verse 36 and once in verse 37] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake [ch. 10:29; [1 Cor. 9:23; 2 Tim. 1:8; Philem. 13]] and the gospel's will save it. 36 [Luke 12:20] For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For [Ps. 49:7, 8] what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For [Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8, 12, 16; Heb. 11:16; 1 John 2:28; [Matt. 10:33]] whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this [Isa. 57:3; Matt. 12:39; James 4:4] adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed [Dan. 7:10, 13; Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:30; 25:31; 26:64; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:16; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7; [Deut. 33:2]] when he comes in the glory of his Father with [Acts 10:22; Rev. 14:10; [Matt. 13:41; 16:27]] the holy angels."

- **Poor Peter,**
 - ***He had just answer the most important question of his life correctly, but just because He knew the answer didn't mean he understood it***
 - ***He tried to explain to Jesus who Peter and the rest of the people expected Jesus to be***
 - ***Jesus is either a liar, which is unworthy to be followed, a lunatic who nobody but other lunatics would follow, or he is Lord***
 - ***And we must allow him to tell us who he is***
 - ***We don't get to make the Lord into what we think a Lord should look like***
- **Pick up you cross**
 - ***This is no fun ride***

- *You are giving yourself, your desires, your hopes, dreams, aspirations and killing them on the cross*
- *So that you and I can be a walking, breathing, living sacrifice for Him*
- *To hold on to the things you and I hope for will ultimately cause us to lose our life*
- *The only way we can keep anything is if our hope and dreams are found in him*
- *We can work and become the richest, or most powerful men in the world, but without Christ we lose it all*
 - *It all goes to somebody else when we die*
 - *None of it can save me, no matter how “good” we think it is*
- *These are hard sayings, but they need to be said, taught and learned*
- *If you want to live a life worth living it has to be founded in something bigger than you or me*
 - *Founded in Jesus and His mission*
 - *Then we contribute our 1 little part into His magnificent story.*