

Mark 8

Mark 8.1-10

-Parallel account in *Matthew 15.32-39*

V1 – This is not a retelling of the feeding of the 5000 (*Mark 6.33-44*)

-Rather, Mark is telling his readers that Jesus was gradually opening the eyes of the "blind" apostles

-So this is another way that he was doing that

-**The location of this miracle?** Area of the Decapolis

-**Who had Jesus left in that area to preach the gospel?** The man healed of demon possession

Read Mark 5.19 – this shows the power of the preaching of 1 man!

-**What problem developed among the crowd of people?** They had nothing to eat

V2 – **What was the reaction of Jesus to the hunger of the multitude?** Had compassion on them

-Remember:

Matthew 5.6 – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be fed.

-**Why were they hungry?** They had been listening to Jesus for three days, and the food they had brought with them had run out

V3 – **What would have happened if they had been sent home without food?** They would have fainted on the way home

V4 – **What was the reaction of the apostles to the problem?** They did not have an answer and could not see a solution - they still had weak faith

V5 – **What did Jesus ask?** How many loaves of bread did they have?

-**Answer?** 7

V6 – **What did Jesus tell the people to do?** Sit down on the ground (note: not in groups of 50's and 100's as with the first feeding)

-**What did the apostles start doing?** Feeding the people

-Notice that Jesus gave thanks for the bread before they ate

V7 – **What else did they have to eat besides bread?** A few small fish

-Notice that he also gave thanks for the fish

-It is very important for us to give thanks before every meal

V8 – **What did they do after everyone had eaten?** Picked up 7 baskets of food

-This "basket" was larger than the basket used in *Mark 6* (2 different Greek words)

-In fact, this was the word for the basket that was used to let Paul down over the wall at Damascus (*Acts 9.25*)

-Again remember: Waste not, want not

V9 – **How many had been fed?** 4000

-The first feeding of the 5000 had been mostly Jews, but the feeding of the 4000 was made up of many Gentiles (from Decapolis)

V 10 – Notice Mark’s style: *"and immediately...."*
-Jesus next went to an area named Dalmanutha

MARK 8.11-13

V 11 – The Pharisees were not satisfied with the feeding of the 4000
-**What did they want to see?** A "sign" – in other words, maybe a bolt of lightning out the sky
-**Were they really interested in hearing the gospel?** No, they only wanted to test Jesus

V 12 – **What was the emotional reaction of Jesus?** Sighed deeply (this Greek word is found only here in the entire Bible)
-**What was the reply of Jesus to the Pharisees?** He would not give them a sign
-We don't always have to answer people who question us – If they are not interested in our answers, and then it doesn't go any good to answer them
-Jesus promised only 1 sign to the Pharisees – **Read Luke 11.29** (sign of Jonah for his resurrection)

V 13 – **What did Jesus do next?** Left the area and went to the other side of the lake

Mark 8.14-21

V 14 – **What had the apostles forgotten to do?** Take enough bread with them on the boat
-**How much bread did they have?** 1 loaf

V 15 – Jesus began to make a point about leaven
-**What was his point?** Leaven spreads, just as evil spreads (if we let it)
-Most of us have watched someone make bread; the leaven spreads, and the bread rises
-**Thought question: What was the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod?** Evil hearts

V 16 – The apostles could not understand the teaching of Jesus here – they still thought he was talking about their lack of bread on the boat

V 17 – Jesus told them that they still did not get the message

V 18 – They were like people who had their eyes, but did not see, and ears but did not hear

V 19 – **What did Jesus go over with them?** The first miracle (feeding of 5000)
-**How many baskets of food were left over?** 12

V 20 – **In the feeding of the 4000, how many baskets were left over?** 7
-**What was the point that he was making?**
-The good bread would produce more good bread, and bad bread (Pharisees, etc.) would produce more bad bread – in other words, goodness and evil will reproduce more of itself

V 21 – But they still did not fully understand what he was talking about

Mark 8.22-26

V 22 – Jesus and the apostles were moving up the western coast of the Sea of Galilee

-The next town was Bethsaida

-**Whom did they bring to Jesus there?** A blind man

-**Why?** Because Jesus had touched and healed so many others in this region that his reputation had spread

V 23 – Jesus seems to have performed this miracle in 2 stages

-**First stage?** He put spit on the man's eyes, then asked him if he saw anything

V 24 – **Man's answer?** He saw men, but they looked like trees walking around

V 25 – **Second stage of the miracle?** Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes

-**Result?** His vision was restored completely

-**Why did Jesus take two steps in restoring sight to the man?**

-It goes with the previous passage: People come to see the light in several stages

-So this is sort of a parable on the maturing of the apostles and their faith

V 26 – **What instructions did Jesus give to this man?** Not to tell anyone about this, but how could a person keep quiet about something such as this?

Mark 8.27-30

V 27 – Jesus took the apostles to Caesarea Philippi, a pagan city where they worshiped Pan and the emperor there - a dramatic place of the Good Confession of Peter

-**What question did Jesus ask his apostles?** Who were people saying that he was?

V 28 – **Answer?** John the Baptist, Elijah (remember *Malachi 4*), one of the prophets

-It is interesting that no-one had said that he was the Messiah

-His goal of avoiding publicity until the right moment was working

V 29 – **Answer of Peter?** You are the Christ, the Messiah

V 30 – Jesus warned them not to tell anybody, until the right moment

Mark 8.31-33

V 31 – Based on their understanding that he was the Messiah, Jesus began to teach them other things

-**What did he teach them?** That he had to suffer, be rejected, killed, and would rise three days later

V 32 – **Did Jesus speak these things in parables?** No, in very plain language

-**What did Peter do?** Rebuked Jesus because of these plans (very patronizing of Peter)

V 33 – **What was the reaction of Jesus?** Accused Peter of being Satan

- Why?** Because Peter was more interested in man's interest than in God's
- Point:** Even good people (such as Peter) can stand in the way of the church and can oppose things and hold up the growth of the church
- At our congregation, a deacon said that in 1996 that if we expanded the building, the church would go bankrupt and that it would destroy the congregation (the addition is now paid off and is serving the church well with more classrooms)

Mark 8.34-38

V 34 – **What would the disciples of Christ have to do?** Deny self, take up cross, follow Jesus

- What do Christians have to deny themselves of?** Pleasures of this life
- What does it mean to bear a cross?** Have a burden to bear as a result of being a Christian
- What else do we have to do?** Follow Christ (not enough just to do the first two things)

V 35 – **Great principle here?** Those who try to get everything in life will lose their lives

- For example, think of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute – the only fame for Howard Hughes today that is left from his life
- His many other exploits in life are primarily forgotten by most people
- Converse?** Those who devote their lives to the church will save their lives

V 36 – **Another great principle?** The person who wants to gain the whole world will lose his soul

- Who in the Bible did this?** Rich Fool
- What happened to him?** He had no idea that he would die that night

V 37 – A rhetorical question: **Answer?** There is nothing that we should be willing to give for our souls

V 38 – **How did Jesus describe his generation?** Adulterous and sinful (sounds like today)

- What would some people do to Christ?** Deny that they ever knew him
- What will Christ do to that person in the last day?** Be ashamed of him
- T-Shirt: Jesus on the shirt
- Message: I didn't say it would be easy; I only said it would be worth it

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