

**Mrk27 – Do You Understand Yet? – Mark 8:1-21**

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**Let Me Ask You a couple Questions**

***Do You Understand What The Lord Is Doing?***

***Do You Understand God's Plan?***

***Or How God is at Work for GOOD  
in your present situation?***

***Do You Understand What God Is Up To?  
Or Why He's Got You – Where He's Got You?***

**Do You Understand Yet?**

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Today's msg is about **Spiritual Understanding**

**#1) Do you think you Have It?**

**#2) What is the First Step to Get It?**

**Do You Have - Spiritual Understanding Yet?**

**Let's Pray**

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**One more question for ALL of us today**

**When We Come To An Event**

Or **A Teaching** - In The **Life** Of Jesus

Are we **Genuinely**, & **Honestly**, **Looking** to **GAIN**  
**Spiritual Understanding** from it – for **our lives**?

**When we interact with Jesus in some way**

**Are we Actively Desiring**

to **GAIN** some **Spiritual Insight** (Understanding) from it?

I **would like** to **suggest** to you **today**

We **might often THINK**

That **We've** got a **pretty good HANDLE**  
on **Understanding** these things

**We are Prone to think**  
**that we actually "Get It"**

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I **don't mean** to be **too DIRECT**

But – **when** was the **last time** you **said** to the **Lord,**

***Lord, Show me what I don't understand here***  
***Show me what I'm missing here***

***Lord – CHANGE the way I SEE this situation***  
***CHANGE the way I FEEL about this situation***

***Lord, THROW OUT my Human Understanding***  
***& Give me True Spiritual Understanding***

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Guys - **THAT** is **WHAT** Jesus is **trying**  
to **GET** his Disciples **TO DO** – **today**

We're in **Mark Ch 8** today

& it was **only back** in **Ch 6** – that **Jesus fed** the **5,000**

Now – just **2 Ch's** later – we **come** to a **similar miracle**  
of Jesus **feeding** the **masses**

It's **So similar** – that the **critics** try to **say**  
That **there** was just **one event**

& Mark **must've had**  
some kind of **short-term** memory **loss**

& he **rewrote** the same **miracle** just **2 Ch's** later

But - **that** is **NOT** what **happened**  
**Because** theses **2 Events** are **NOT** the **same**

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**There's** a **Difference** in **HOW MANY** people

A **Difference** in **HOW MANY DAYS** the people were with Jesus

A **Difference** in **WHERE THEY GOT** the food

A **Difference** in **HOW** they **WERE SERVED**

& in the **BLESSING**

A **Difference** in **WHAT** was **LEFT OVER**

& how it was **collected**

& **most importantly**

**Today's** Event **occurs** in a **Different Place**

& with **Different People**

The **previous** - **feeding** of the **5,000**

Was in Galilee - with exclusively JEWISH people

Today's feeding of the 4,000 was in the Decapolis –  
Which was Predominantly GREEK people  
Because the GENTILES – in the Greek Decapolis  
Needed 4,000 Witnesses

WHO SAW - THE “Living Bread of Life” –  
Create from nothing - the “Physical Bread of Life”

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BUT – the MAIN POINT of what I SEE in our Text today  
What I think we really NEED to GRASP

is that The Disciples still had plenty to LEARN  
About the Spiritual Understanding of these miracles

So – let's read thru our 1st section today (vs' 1-9)  
& then we'll comment on it

& IF this event sounds familiar to you – ask yourself

WHY is Jesus taking his Disciples  
thru an Almost Identical Event – for a 2nd Time?

### **Mark 8:1–9 (NLT)**

**1** *About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them,*

**2** *“I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat.*

**3** *If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance.”*

**4** *His disciples replied, “How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?”*

(sound familiar)

**5** *Jesus asked, “How much bread do you have?” “Seven loaves,” they replied.*

**6** *So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd.*

**7** *A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them.*

**8** *They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food.*

**9** *There were about 4,000 men in the crowd that day, and Jesus sent them home after they had eaten.*

Now - R. Kent Hughes suggests

Three HUGE Spiritual Lessons here

**#1)** Jesus Is The True Bread Of Life  
Come Down From Heaven

**#2)** Jesus Is Not Just The Bread of Life For The Jews  
But ALSO For The Gentiles

**#3)** The Supply Of Jesus Will Always EXCEED  
The Need that We Have

Those are Three DEEP, Great Spiritual Truths

& certainly 3 GREAT Truths the Disciples could have  
CHEWED ON – so-to-speak

& We could CHEW on these Three Great Spiritual Truths  
For the REST of our Lives

& never fully understand ALL that they mean

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**BUT - do you think** the Disciples were “Looking For”

The Great Spiritual Truths about Jesus  
in this 2nd – almost identical Miracle?

**Do you think** they were really SEARCHING  
for the Spiritual Understanding here

Or were they maybe thinking,

*“well, I guess this is how we’re gonna have to feed people  
from now on . . .”*

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Guys – the Big Picture today (The Main Point) is  
The Disciples’ LACKED Spiritual Understanding

**& I believe - Jesus** is trying to SHOW THEM  
That they LACKED Spiritual Understanding

**In Fact** - At the End of our Text today  
Jesus is going to ASK his Disciples - very directly

*“Don’t you understand yet?”*

& the answer is obviously  
NO, they DID NOT understand yet

& can I tell you please

WE are often - in the SAME BOAT – AS them !

& you'll see it more - AS we continue

**So - Moving on – to Mark 8:10 (NLT)**

*10 Immediately after this, he got into a boat with his disciples and crossed over to the region of Dalmanutha.*

the port of Magdala – where we go today & see a synagogue  
that Jesus definitely would've taught in

So Jesus is there – at Magdala

**& Mark 8:11 says (NLT)**

*11 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had arrived, they came and started to argue with him. Testing him, they demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.*

How many - 'Miraculous Signs' do you think the Pharisees  
had SEEN or HEARD about – by this point?

How many - 'Miraculous Signs'  
had the Disciples SEEN by this Point?

How many - 'Miraculous Signs' have We Seen

or heard about - in our lives?

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Guys – We are in the Same Boat -  
It's NOT JUST the Pharisees

WE also have a tendency

To ARGUE with Jesus

To TEST him

To DEMAND that he PROVE Himself – to US

Let's be HONEST – We STILL HAVE some  
Spiritual Understanding to Gain – Right?

& The MORE we Point at the Pharisees

The MORE we may be Pointing at Ourselves

AND THEN - the MORE Jesus may have

a SIMILAR Response to US – as he did to THEM

**Mark 8:12 (NLT)**

*12 When he heard this (their Arguing, Testing, Demanding), he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why do these people keep demanding a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, I will not give this generation any such sign.”*

Now – of course there was more PROOF coming  
that Jesus IS who he says he IS

Culminating in his Resurrection from the Dead

But – what Jesus is saying here is



**I'm not playing THIS GAME with you**  
**I'm not playing by YOUR RULES**  
**& I'm not jumping at YOUR DEMANDS**

The **Pharisees** (as **well** as **You & I**)  
are **NOT** in a **PLACE**

To **ARGUE** – or **TEST** – or **DEMAND**  
that **Jesus PROVE** Himself **to US**

**Jesus** is **NOT THE ONE**  
**With** the **LACK** of **Spiritual Understanding**  
**YOU & I ARE**

& so - **Jesus** is **NOT the one** who **needs** to **BEND**  
to **OUR Understanding**

**We** are the **ones** – Who **need** to **BEND**  
to **HIS Understanding**

**THAT IS** the **point today**

We **can't PUT** on **Jesus**  
**OUR Understanding** - & **OUR Perspective**

**We** Absolutely **MUST come** to **Jesus** – **KNOWING**

**That we** - **LACK Spiritual Understanding**

**That we** - **LACK** the **Correct Spiritual Perspective**

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& there **may be some** right **now**

who are thinking

***Not Me – I actually DO have Spiritual Understanding***

**Can I share something I've learned - with you?**

It's a **Secret** that **comes** from **40 years** of **Following Jesus**  
& **30 years** of **Serving him** in **Ministry**

It's an **OLD MAN'S Truth** . . . Here it is

The more **we THINK** we **UNDERSTAND**  
The more **we** most likely **DON'T UNDERSTAND**  
  
& the **more** we **THINK** we **KNOW**  
The **More** we most likely - **DON'T KNOW**

**Guys** - If **we** are **going** to **GROW**  
in our **Spiritual Understanding** of **Jesus Christ**

It **MUST BEGIN**  
with our **Complete Acknowledgement**

**That** – **in ourselves**  
**WE LACK** - **Spiritual Understanding**

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& **If we** will **come to Jesus** - & **Honestly Say**

***Lord, I don't understand,***  
***I don't GET it***  
***I don't SEE what you're doing – or WHY***

**Please, Lead me & Guide me**  
**for your Names Sake**

**Please fill me with your Spirit**  
**& REVEAL to me the Correct Spiritual Understanding**

**Lord, I can't Reason this out**  
**I can't Figure this out – I can't Logic this out**

**I need you to reveal to me**  
**the Spiritual Understanding that I need**

**& Lord– for the part that's TOO DEEP for me to understand**  
**I WILL Trust You completely**

**& Lord, I pray you would continue to reveal**  
**True Spiritual Understanding to me – as we walk together**

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**If we will come to Jesus – with THAT Heart**

**Then Jesus WILL Embrace us**  
**& REVEAL his Spiritual Understanding to us (eventually)**

**Back in In v.11 – The Pharisees DID NOT**  
**Come to Jesus in this way**

**& so – Jesus responded to them – DIFFERENTLY**

**& in Mark 8:13 we read (NLT)**

**13 So he got back into the boat and left them, and he crossed to the other side of the lake.**

**& right here – I'm sure the Disciples were thinking**

**Man, those Pharisees! –**

**Those Thick-Headed, Stubborn, Blind Pharisee's**

**They just DON'T GET IT**

**Man – I am SO GLAD – WE GET IT**

**Jesus saw how Awesome we were  
& that's why he picked US**

**We Understand you Jesus**

**We're tracking right WITH YOU**

**We're Not like those OTHER Numbskulls**

**We Have the Spiritual Understanding**

**Are you SURE? . . . Or is it – Maybe that - you DON'T?**

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**I want to read our final set of vs's – all at once today**

**Because I really want you to SEE YOURSELF**

**IN this conversation**

**I want you to Really GRASP**

**the power of what's happening here**

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**So again – the Pharisees just PROVED  
That they LACK - *Spiritual Understanding***

**& Now – it's the Disciples turn**

**Mark 8:14-21 (NLT)**

***14 But the disciples had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat.***

***15 As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.”***

***16 At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread.***

***17 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don't you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in?***

***18 ‘You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—can't you hear?’ Don't you remember anything at all?***

***19 When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?” “Twelve,” they said.***

***20 “And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?” “Seven,” they said.***

***21 “Don't you understand yet?” he asked them.***

**Some of us have had Fathers**

who used a similar type of “Teaching Method” with us

**It goes like this:**

***“Son, is there a brain in that head of yours?”***

***“Are you sure you’re firing on all cylinders in there?”***

***“You’ve got eyes, right? – why don’t you open ‘em  
& see what’s going on around you”***

***“I see you got ears - they’re stickin out of your head –  
here’s an idea, why don’t you try usin’ ‘em”***

Guys – when I was growing up

this was the Preferred Method  
for Raising a Son in America

But Now – the Father’s of the  
current Youth Generation – GEN Z

They’re not allowed to use  
this Effective Teaching method

Because our Progressive Culture is Outlawing  
Anything resembling us telling our children

that anything they THINK – or anything they FEEL  
might actually be WRONG

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But – it seems pretty clear to me

that Jesus Was trying to get  
this same “Subtle Point” across to his disciples

Let’s Review

**Mark 8:17** . . . “Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don’t you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in?

**18** ‘You have eyes—can’t you see? You have ears—can’t you hear?’ Don’t you remember anything at all?

**19** When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?” “Twelve,” they said.

**20** “And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?” “Seven,” they said.

**21** “Don’t you understand yet?” he asked them.

Well, Lord – I guess

No, we DON’T understand yet

We WANT to understand,

but apparently - we don’t

Guys - My ONE & ONLY Point today - is this;

We (Like The Disciples) LACK Spiritual Understanding

It is NOT in our own nature

No matter how gifted we think we are

The truth is – We DO NOT KNOW  
what God is doing

Except for the limited amount

That he CHOOSES to REVEAL to us

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Our OWN LOGIC - Our OWN REASONING

Our OWN PERSPECTIVE - &

Our OWN PRESUMPTIONS

ARE almost always - NOT GOD'S

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& So - we have got to begin our attempt  
to understand what God is doing

By clearly understanding  
that we DON'T KNOW what God is doing

THAT is the beginning – of *Spiritual Understanding*

We have to START this “Revelation Process” With God

By saying

*Lord, I DON'T KNOW what you're doing*

*I don't Pretend to know what you're doing . . .*

*But – I believe you will REVEAL it to me*

*AS I SEEK YOU*

*& AS YOU FEEL IT IS NECESSARY*

*& so - I Follow YOU Lord !*

I DON'T Follow - a 'Fully Understood' PLAN

I DON'T Follow - a clearly laid out Road Map

I follow a PERSONAL GOD

I follow YOU, *Lord Jesus*



& - **AS I follow YOU** Jesus

**I PRAY** - you would **GIVE ME EYES**  
to **SEE more** of what **you are doing**

**I PRAY** – you would **GIVE ME EARS**  
to **Hear more** of **your voice**

**I PRAY** – you would **GIVE ME A HEART**  
To **RECEIVE MORE** of your **Spiritual Understanding**

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**God Can** - & **God WILL**  
**Give us** More **Spiritual Understanding**

**But it must start** – with **us Recognizing**

**That we** have  
**NO True Spiritual Understanding** on **our own**

We can **ONLY Receive Spiritual Understanding**

As we **Humbly SEEK God FOR it**  
& As he **Graciously Reveals it** - to **us**

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### **Isaiah 55:8–9 (NLT)**

**8** “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

**9** *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

**May we have the Courage - To Set Aside**

Our **Own Thoughts** - &

Our **Own Ways**

& **instead** – **SEEK the Lord, with ALL we've GOT**  
for **HIS Spiritual Understanding**

**Let's Pray**