



The Gospel of Mark Following Christ

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“Do You Still Not Understand?” Warning about the Leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod

Mark 8:10–21

April 9, 2017

Dr. Mark Strauss

Theme: When the Pharisees—representing the present generation of unrepentant Israel—test Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven, Jesus expresses deep frustration and refuses to give them a sign. Jesus then cautions the disciples against the “leaven” of the Pharisees and of Herod and warns them against spiritual blindness and deafness. Though they are in danger of going the way of the religious leaders, Jesus seeks to stir up their faith by reminding them of the power of the kingdom of God exhibited in His two feeding miracles.

Outline

1. Context: A Boat Journey to Dalmanutha (8:10)
2. The Request of the Pharisees for a Sign from Heaven (8:11)

3. Confusion about Leaven and Bread (8:14–16)

a. The disciples' failure to bring bread (v. 14)

b. Jesus' warning against the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod (v. 15)

c. The misunderstanding of the disciples (v. 16)

4. Jesus' Response (8:17–21)

a. Warning against spiritual blindness and deafness (vv. 17–18)

b. Reminder of the feeding miracles (vv. 19–20)

c. Final warning (v. 21)

Takeaway: Jesus calls us to avoid being distracted by the things of this world that have no eternal value and to keep our focus on the values of the kingdom of God.

Next Cove:

April 23, 2017 (after Easter)

Healing a Blind Man at Bethsaida & Peter's Confession

Mark 8:22-33