

Definition of “Tone-Deaf”?

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Not noticing small differences in musical pitch. (Adj)

**The short video played at this point in the sermon
may be viewed here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeAfBwEn4Us>

Where Are We In Mark's Story of Jesus?

- **1:1–15** — Introduction to Jesus and the Kingdom
- **1:16–3:6** — The Kingdom Goes Public – Disciples, Crowds, Opposition
- **3:7–8:21** — The Mystery of the Kingdom – Faith, Misunderstanding, Hard Hearts
- **8:22–10:45** — The Mystery Unveiled – The Cross and the Way of Discipleship

(How to Read the Bible Book by Book, Stewart & Fee)

The End of “Mystery of The Kingdom”

Mark 7:31–8:26

- **7:31–37 — Jesus Heals a Deaf & Mute Man**
- **8:1–10 — Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand**
- **8:11–21 — The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod**
- **8:22–26 — Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida**

Mark 7:31–8:26

- **Another miraculous feeding (7:31; 6:30)**
- **The crowds' confidence in Jesus (7:32,37; 8:22)**
- **Jesus' compassion & sensitivity (7:33; 8:2; 8:23)**
- **Jesus' dependence on His Father (7:34; 8:6)**
- **Jesus' distress (7:34; 8:12)**
- **Jesus' power, Messiah-like miracles (7:35; 8:8; 8:25)**
- **Bracketed by healing broken ears & eyes (7:31; 8:22)**

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod

Mark 8:11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

8:14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?”

8:18 “And don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

“Twelve,” they replied.

“And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven.”

He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

Good Yeast



Bad Yeast

Mark 8:11 **The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven.**

8:14 **“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”**

We Are In Control, Not You

Luke 7:31 Jesus went on to say, “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’”

Heart of Pharisees and Herod

- **Pharisees: Hypocrisy; outside did not match inside**
- **Herod: Adultery**

- **Power; sought to control Jesus and His influence**
- **Not teachable; hard-hearted; rejected Jesus based on their values rather than learning His values**

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS



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The Signs of the Messiah

Luke 7:22 So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

Luke 11:29 Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.”

Jesus and the Hard-Hearted

- He has shown His authority by fulfilling Scripture's portrait of the Messiah.
- He is grieved by a lack of faith and an unwillingness to follow Him.
- He does not respond to demands rooted in disbelief.

Mark 8:17 **Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them:
“Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you
still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?
Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to
hear?”**

Matt. 16:8 **Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of
little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about
having no bread?”**

Jesus and the Disciples

- **Jesus' priority is on how we respond to Him.**
- **Jesus distinguishes between a hard heart and a weak but teachable heart.**
- **We need to guard our hearts. The danger is real.**

Eph. 4:30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

2 Peter 1:10 **Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election.**

Mark 8:23 **When Jesus had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."**

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Oh, You of Little Faith and Poor Hearing

1 Tim. 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Importance of Real Listening

In marriage, the most important thing is you got to listen.

**A lot of wives complain that their husbands don't listen.
I've never heard my wife say this. She may have.**

(Jerry Seinfeld)

Are You Listening?

- **How real has God been this week to your heart?**
- **How have you been finding Scripture to be “alive” and “active”?**
- **Are you conscious of evil in your heart? Are you depending more and more on the mercy and grace of God?**

(paraphrased from Tim Keller, *Gospel Renewal*)