

The Gospel of Mark – I DON'T GET IT

Mark 8:11- May 11th, 2026

Mark 8:11-12 – Sign Seekers

Moving and shifting from the gentiles and back towards focusing on the Jewish people.

Disputing & Testing (controversially challenge & to provoke or prod at someone, seeing if they could get Him to crack)

Satan in the desert – stoned to bread, jump and see if the angels catch you...

(12)SIGHED DEEPLY – GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!!!

He sent the prophets of old, gave His Son, created the church, assembling congregations and establishing pulpits. More recently He's illuminated channels within the platforms of media to get His truth out to the ends of the earth. HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW, AND YOU HAVE NO EXCUSES NOT TO HAVE KNOWN.

Limited vision = limited understanding

God's heart on display in the prayers of Paul for those living in Ephesus

Ephesians 1:16-19 (I) do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...

Recorded in Mathew 16 is the same encounter we are studying from Mark's account...

Red sky at night, sailors' delight, Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. (a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, you'll only get the sign of Jonah

NO SIGN - Hebrew idiom or oath... may it be done to me also if I go back, cross my heart, hope to die, pinky promise.

You're so smart, yet you can't see what is right in front of you. - Matthew 16:2-4

Sign of Jonah – Swallowed by the grave for three days but then in an instant, back to the land of the living.

Don't fall into the quicksand of thinking that you can somehow out logic God or through your intellectual argumentation, one-up Him.. IT – WILL – NEVER – HAPPEN!

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 For the Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

Pharisees stood for the spiritual or the supernatural
Sadducees denied supernatural angels, spirits, and resurrection
Conservative without being Christian

It's one thing to ask the Lord for His divine mercy and power; it's another to challenge Him to prove Himself or to entertain you that you would get some thrill and excitement from heaven.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE SIGN, IT'S ABOUT THE SON.

On the move again, 6 hours in the fishing boat moving across the lake.

The Pharisees couldn't see what was right in front of them; the disciples couldn't grasp what was just said to them.

Leaven of Pharisees and Herod (Also Matthew 16)

Mark 8:13-21

The Setting (13-14)

Have you ever been misunderstood? (haha)

The disciples love Jesus, were loyal to Jesus, but struggled to understand Jesus. It really is quite the leap... lots of words for bread, but leaven is not one of them.

Schat's Bakery in Bishop Wheat, sourdough, shepherds... not yeast

The Situation (15-16)

Leaven of (a match in a dry forest – guarding your mind from truth is important)

Q: Do deceived people think they are deceived? NOPE!

- Satan can be like an angel of light...
- Distraction of angels, demons, and spiritual beings (Colossians)

You can't be the party of human rights and support abortion

You can't hate the police and then call them when you need them

You can't push for a ban on guns and then have a security team full of them

You can't demand wide-open borders and lock your own doors at night

You can't love the planet and fly private jets to climate conferences.

You can't stand for woman's right and then let men onto their sports teams and into their bathrooms.

You can't preach tolerance and cancel everyone who disagrees

You can't fight for equality and then demand special treatment based on race & identity.

You can't scream my body my choice and then force vaccines on everyone

The deception will also become a distraction... EYES ON JESUS!

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Get the leaven out!)

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Silly comparison, the bread left behind was not the bread of the Pharisees but Jesus. Lack of bread was not a problem when it was 5k or 4k, nor would it be now.

JESUS WAS WARNING HIS GUYS... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!!!

Pharisees: (Traditions of men and callous toward people)

Sadducees: Culture focused... OVER being Kingdom-focused.

Herod: – and the Herodians' DESIRE (irreligion and sensuality) and POWER CRAZED

An Illustrative Encounter (This encounter is only recorded by Mark)

Mark 8:22-26

CHRIST ADAPTED HIMSELF TO THE NEED OF THE PERSON... The syro, the deff mute, the blind man... eyes crusted over. Again the hands of a carpenter but a heart of compassion.

The abnormal out-of-the-box encounter this man has with Jesus. Led by the hand.

The saliva releasing the crust around his eyes is not the strange part of this miracle; it's the phased-in progression.

Halfway – Men like trees

Like being underwater, opening your eyes, and looking up, trying to discern who is standing above the surface of the water.

It does illustrate the lesson *before* it...

Pharisees couldn't see what was right in front of them, the disciples couldn't understand what they just heard. - ***Like an infant, cross-eyed and blurry until they mature.***

Sometimes it's instant, sometimes it's an experience of progressive revelation.

God is a God of INFINITE VARIETY

Like rungs on a ladder, climbing higher and higher,

- Jesus' hand, leading,
- Touch,
- Talking,
- And now healing brought him closer and closer to realization.
Feeds (meets with) in masses but ministers one-on-one (PERSONAL GOD)

APPLICATION

Am I missing it? (SHOW US A SIGN – PRODING, PROVOKING, & QUESTIONING GOD)

Don't fall into the quicksand of thinking that you can somehow out logic God or through your intellectual argumentation, one-up Him.. IT – WILL – NEVER – HAPPEN!

Am I overcomplicating it?

Leaven... is He mad we don't have bread?

You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free...

Instant or progressive... When it comes to the Lord, continue to grow in what you know and compare it to who you are.

What do I need to be careful of in my life?

Tradition?

Cultural Ideas over Christ's Instructions? – Well, everyone is doing it. (haha)

Desires and power?

Am I approaching people how Jesus does? (Variety)

If you have been trained in counseling or care, or simply are a long-time follower, don't fall into a rut. One person at a time, one posture at a time... always to Jesus!

Mark seems to put down an illustrative miracle of what the disciples were going through in life... progressive revelation and understanding. Some get it in an instant. Don't be like the Pharisees and miss it altogether.

The Lord is a personal God of infinite variety. He knows how to heal you, let Him lead you.