

# **“DISCIPLES IN TRAINING!”**

## **Mark Chapter 8**

### **I) BE THANKFUL (v1-9)**

### **II) BEWARE (v10-21)**

### **III) BE HEALED (v22-26)**

### **IV) BELIEVE (v27-33)**

### **V) BE COMMITTED (v34-38)**

#### **I) BE THANKFUL (v1-9)**

> If you want God to provide for you then stay close to Jesus, walk with Jesus, listen to Jesus, offer unto God what you have and pray with thanksgiving.

- **God provides - Matthew 6:6; 25-34**

- **God promises - Prov 3:9-10** - *Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

**2 Cor 9:10-15** - *Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

#### **II) BEWARE OF LEAVEN (v10-21)**

> **Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (religious) and the leaven Herod (political)** - One commentator writes, “In the Bible, leaven is consistently a symbol of evil. Each Passover season, the Jews had to remove all leaven from their dwellings (Ex 12:18-20), and leaven was not allowed with the offerings (Ex 23:18; 34:25; Lev 2:11; 6:17). Evil, like leaven, is small and hidden, but it spreads and soon infects the whole (Gal 5:9). The Bible uses leaven as a picture of false doctrine (Gal 5:1-9), unjudged sin in the church (1 Cor 5), and hypocrisy (Luke 12:1). In this context, Jesus warned them about the teaching (false doctrine) of the Pharisees and the followers of Herod. The Pharisees "said but they did not"; in other words, they practiced and encouraged hypocrisy (note Mark 7:6). The Herodians were a worldly group who catered to Herod, accepted the Roman way of life, and saw in Herod and his rule the promised kingdom for the Jewish nation. If this false teaching got into the hearts and minds of the disciples, it would infect them and pollute the truth Jesus had given them to proclaim about Himself and His kingdom. We can never be too careful about detecting and avoiding false doctrine. Only a small deviation from the Word may get into an individual or a church, but before long it will grow and infect everything. Our Lord did not often say "Beware!" but when He did it was important!"

#### **III) BE HEALED (v22-26)**

> **The blind man goes from darkness to light, so it is with every person who places faith in Jesus Christ!** Jesus said in John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* Once you see Christ, never stop looking for Him, Paul writes in Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

#### **IV) BELIEVE (v27-33)**

> **Who do you say that Jesus is? Peter declares and Jesus confirms that He is the CHRIST!** - **CHRIST** (anointed one) - a name for Jesus which showed that He was the long-awaited king and deliverer. For centuries the Jewish people had looked for a prophesied Messiah, a deliverer who would usher in a kingdom of peace and prosperity (Ps 110; Isa 32:1-8; Amos 9:13). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- **Jesus said in John 5:31-40** - *"If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish — the very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

#### **V) BE COMMITTED (v34-38)**

> **Have you come to the CROSS OF CHRIST? Paul writes in 1 Cor 1:18-19** - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

> **Are you a disciple of Christ? Notice four keys are mentioned:**

(1) **DESIRE** – meaning His will is your will, that is to be resolved or to have a determined purpose to please His heart;

(2) **DENY HIMSELF** - Gal 2:20-21 - *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

(3) **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS** - The cross, then, is the symbol of Jesus' love, God's power to save, and the thankful believer's unreserved commitment to Christian discipleship. To those who know the salvation which Christ gained for us through His death, it is a "wondrous cross" indeed.

(4) **FOLLOW JESUS!** – Follow Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, follow His character, His love, His Joy, His forgiveness, His humility, His teaching, His goodness, His kindness, His truth, His conviction, His life and into eternity!

**LET'S GO "4" GOD!**