

## Mark 8 “The Way of the Servant”

Please stand and open your Bibles to Mark 8:1-10

Our study today connects to last week as we read...

Mark 8:1

In those days, the multitude being very great

What days?

Mark 7:31

Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.

Our \* map shows us what area that is.

This is an area of a mixed multitude. Jews and Gentiles. Most Jews that are “Hellenists”. Meaning that have adopted the Greek culture. This is not the same group that had been on the other side of the lake that were all Jewish. We are not told this in scripture, but most commentators and biblical historians agree that this would be the crowd that Jesus was ministering too. We do get a clue at the end of the story so let’s jump right in.

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

Mark 8:1-10

I know, I know, how come they did not remember that they just fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish? We do know time has passed. How much we do not know but probably enough for them to forget. Also, they are learning. Faith is a learned behavior that grows from spending time with Jesus. This will be important a little later in the chapter.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

As we walk with Jesus, as we study the word, as we spend more time with Him, we will grow. Don't give these guys a hard time, they need to learn just like us.

There is a difference in this miracle than the one with the five thousand. It is in the baskets. This is a large basket that you would carry grain in. It was an international basket used in storage and commerce. It is only used one other time in the New Testament outside of this usage...

Acts 9:25

Then the disciples took him by night and let him (Paul) down through the wall in a large basket.

Think about it! Seven baskets that are large enough to put a man in! In the previous miracle it was twelve Jewish carrying baskets, but this one would take a couple of people to move! There is a hidden truth here that you could call conjecture if you want but numbers do mean something. 12 is human government but also represents the twelve tribes of Israel. 7 is the number for completion and if this was mostly gentiles that are being fed a picture of the future harvest of the Church!

Romans 11:25

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

I don't believe in coincidences in the Bible! Now we see they get into a boat and head to Dalmanutha. I knew you would ask, so here it is on a map...

What happens there? A run in with the Pharisees...

Seeking a Sign

Mark 8:11-12

Jesus is not saying here that it is a sin to ask for a sign. This was a response to those that are asking with the wrong motives. By this time in His ministry, He has proven Himself to be the Messiah by the miracles He did so instead of accepting this

they decided to debate Him and try to trap Him. Everybody says they will believe in God if He would show Himself, but is this really true?

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

They didn't want a sign, they wanted affirmation. They thought they were the special ones that God would rescue with a Messiah. They wanted Him to tell them what they wanted to hear thereby breaking the second commandment of creating a god in their own image. This is the same group that Jesus is referring to...

John 3:19-20

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

The sign has already been given. No more is needed. You need to respond to the one given.

Jesus will now turn this into a lesson...

Beware!

Mark 8:13-21

Jesus is dropping a spiritual truth bomb on them and all they can think of is bread. I don't know where they got the idea of forgetting bread from this statement, but it must have been on their mind. How often we forget that Jesus will provide for us. Jesus is trying to teach them a lesson after the run in with the Pharisees and they just remembered they had forgot to pack their lunch. Jesus has to remind them that He can feed them anytime He wants. Now He told them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod. We know scripture tells us...

1 Corinthians 5:6

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

And further context in Matthew...

Matthew 15:12

Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Now we can figure out what the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees is. We know one represents Legalism and the other materialism but what about Herod? Herod represents compromise. Herod married a Jew and thereby appeasing the nation and bringing in the idea the two can work and live

together. Remember they came to Jesus together to try to trip Him up on taxes only to no avail.

These doctrines are still alive and well today. Legalism and compromise are all over the place.

Galatians 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

1 Corinthians 5:11

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

The Bible teaches that we are not to practice Legalism but also to not be involved with License (Immoral Behavior). There is a middle ground...

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Jesus wants you and I to have true freedom and liberty. It is only found in Him!

## A Blind Man Healed

Mark 8:22-26

Again, Jesus shows us that He heals in various ways. We have no idea why He had to touch him twice or why He spit in his eyes. Now do you really believe he is not going to tell anyone. How could you not! Hey, aren't you the blind guy? No, man you are thinking of someone else. That must be why he told him to stay out of town? Again, some things we will learn more about when we get to heaven.

## Peter's Confession

Mark 8:27-30

This, of course, is the million-dollar question. It is the one we all need to answer. It is the most important question that you will need an answer to. Peter answers wisely as we see in Matthew...

Matthew 16:17

Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

This was a response to a divine revelation. There is a transaction that happens as the Spirit is leading us to Him.

## 1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

But it doesn't take long for Peter to blow it...

## Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

Mark 8:31-33

Again, they are in training and having to have many things they believe in be corrected. They thought the Messiah was to come to reign, not die. This was all hidden to them, but it was the truth. Jesus has to die. There is no other way. To work around it is of the devil. Satan has gone to great lengths to not let this day come. From the problem before the flood to the constant threat of Israel's destruction. Even at the cross the devil thought he had Him. Be careful of not being mindful of the things of men as they always lead to the path of Satan.

## The Way of the Servant

Mark 8:34-38

Jesus tells us plainly the way to Him. There is only one way and that is through the cross. There is no other way. This is not a call to discipleship but the way to life. It is the great paradox that leads to life. You must die to live. There is no other way. You can't be reformed. You can't be rehabilitated. God is not



going to come and make your life better. He is not duct tape or a band aid. There are many in this world that have just “added” Jesus to their life and think they are saved. This is not a statement of works. Don’t read into this some sort of self-sacrifice that you need to accomplish to come to him. It is the three-step process that happens to everyone who gets saved.

Denying oneself does not mean you have to give up everything that is bad for you. It means denying that you are OK without a Savior. You are no longer looking to yourself as being able to attain to righteousness. Denying yourself is denying any ability in yourself to clean up your life. You look and say, nope, not me. Picking up your cross is not the saying “It’s my cross I have to bear”. That is a Roman Catholic idea of having to do penance for your sins. Picking up your cross is realizing that the old man has to die. I need a new life. The old one won’t do. I like how Luke put it...

Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

He understood that this process take time. It is daily, sometimes moment by moment that we need to die to our old self. We deny ourselves, die to ourselves and follow Him. Paul summed it up very well here...

To Live is to Die

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be [a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been [b]freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 \* Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am surprised what people give up to keep their life. They will do anything but come to Christ. Look around, is the riches and fame that this life offers really worth the cost of your soul?

Psalm 49:6-8

Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him—for the redemption of their souls is costly

It cost Jesus His life! The cross is the only way. There is no other.

Mark 8:38

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Now this is not talking about when you don't witness to someone. But it does carry some importance. The mark of a true born-again believer is that you identify with Christ now. If asked you don't even need to think about the answer. Also, when pushed it will always surface. I don't know anyone who is truly saved that would ever be ashamed of Jesus. Oh, we stumble sometimes. We will work around the subject because of convenience. This isn't talking about perfection but about identification.

In a similar passage in Luke Jesus says this...

Luke 12:11-12

“Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should

answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Don't you see that this worked its way out in the first three centuries of persecution. A true believer will always identify as His and will never be ashamed.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

A true believer is one who has come to the end of himself. He understands that he is worthy of death. He comes to the realization that Jesus is the only way. He gives his life to Him and becomes a new man. There is only one way and that is through the man, Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.