

WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY.  
-48.C.  
HEM, JUDEA

KLUGS

THE MESSIAH:  
PREPARE THE WAY FOR

# Can You See?

• Mark 8:1–25

## WHO IS TH

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

WHO AM I? // WHO IS JESUS?



### CHAPTER 2

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the crowds gathered quickly that he was back home. 2 Soon the houses where he was staying were so packed with visitors that there was no room left, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, a few men entered carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 3 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they

15 Later, Jesus and Jesus and his disciples went to dinner guests, along with some tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) So that when the teachers of religion (as well as the Pharisees and other sinners) they asked him, "Why do you eat and drink with sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard this, he said,

5000



- Did Jesus feed 4,000 or 5,000?
  - YES!
- Why include these 2 similar stories?
  - Jesus opens the way to God for hypocritical religionists and for pagan idolators
  - Jesus has mercy on those near and far from him
  - All who come to Christ are satisfied



## **Mark 8:1–10 (NASB)**

1 In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and said to them,  
2 "I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a great distance." 4 And His disciples answered Him, "Where will anyone be able to find enough bread here in this desolate place to satisfy these people?" 5 And He was asking them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."



## **Mark 8:1–10 (NASB) [continued]**

6 And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people. 7 They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well. 8 And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces. 9 About four thousand were there; and He sent them away. 10 And immediately He entered the boat with His disciples and came to the district of Dalmanutha.



- Why does Mark include these 2 stories only 2 chapters apart from each other?
  - To show that even those who are close to Christ can misunderstand and doubt him
- 1. To show that in the grand scheme, the hunger of these people is not as big as the need Jesus came to meet
  - Do you appreciate that?
  - Each miracle points to something greater—replacing dead hearts with living hearts
- Are you praying as desperately for your spiritual needs as you are your physical needs?



1. To show that Jesus cared for the needs of the people
  - God created you to live in your times
  - He is not irritated when you bring the details of your times to him
- Jesus is a Savior of endless compassion of his people
- Are you hesitating to bring some need to God? Jesus cares!



## **Mark 8:11–13 (NASB)**

11 The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. 12 Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.



- The Pharisees help intro the focal point of this section of Mark—spiritual sight
- 2 kinds of blindness:
  - Willful blindness (Pharisees/Jews)
  - Curable blindness (poor/outcasts/Gentiles/disciples)
- We should all expect some difficult in understanding things about Christ
  - Gospel Forgetfulness Syndrome
  - Biblical illiteracy
  - Sin



- Everyone's struggling to understand Christ here
  - Pharisees want another sign
  - The people want to make him King because he fed them
  - The disciples don't believe there's any hope for the impossible things
- Jesus says to them "I am the bread that comes down from heaven. I'm the sign! I'm the sign that God is willing to redeem and relate to you!"



- Why do the Pharisees want to kill him?
  - Because he tells men who believe they are righteous that they are sinners like the rest of us and need to repent
- But with the disciples, Jesus is patient
  - As they respond with tiny, radical faith, Jesus comes closer to them
  - Give me patient grace, Jesus!
- Jesus was close the religiously blind, but he couldn't have been further away from their hearts



## **Mark 8:14–21 (NASB)**

14 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. 15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 They began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Jesus, aware of this, \*said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? 18 Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember, 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve."



## **Mark 8:14–21 (NASB) [continued]**

20 "When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven." 21 And He was saying to them, "Do you not yet understand?"



- The disciples are stuck in this boat with no one other hope except Christ
  - GOOD—that's were we have to be to turn to Jesus!
- 2 issues in the boat:
  1. Disciples: food
  2. Jesus: sight
  - Why can't the disciples trust him again?
  - Why can't we trust Jesus to bring his abundance into our lives?



- The disciples are just lost in confusion, and Jesus peppers them with 8 questions!
  - The Lord is mysterious and does his things in his way
  - Where are you lost in confusion, struggling to trust in Jesus—who is with you in the boat!
- Christ talks to them about “sour dough”—false/empty beliefs that keep you far away from God
- He wants their counsel to be from the right source
  - What is the source of your counsel (give and get)?



- Again, Christ warns them about religion that is only external/concerned with actions
  - God will be satisfied with nothing less than our hearts
  - He wants the private places of your life—to be the context of all you do and the love of your life!



- Rehearse the Gospel and God's faithfulness in the past every day!
  - Where do you doubt and fear the Lord's power, willingness or compassion?
- Like the disciples, we are prone to forget
  - Rehearse the past blessings of the Lord the grace of the Gospel every day!



## **Mark 8:22–25 (NASB)**

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him. 23 Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around." 25 Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.



- Jesus attacks their spiritual blindness head on!
- Why does he spit on this man??
  - It's disgusting and offensive
  - They believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but Christ needs them to SEE him
  - He's almost headed to Jerusalem, and the power/position they think is waiting for them isn't Jesus' plan
- Christ is not content to let us halfway believe
  - He's calling us to follow him to Calvary—often includes shame and disgrace
  - He wants them to see that by gaining salvation through Jesus, the costs of following him are more than worth it



- Are you remembering everything Jesus has already done for you?
- Do you feel overwhelmed at all you have to do today?
  - Do you have enough?
    - No—but Yes when you entrust your stale bread and little sardines to Jesus
    - God isn't limited by your limitations



- Can you remember details of Jesus' work in your life, but don't understand who he is/what he's doing in you in this wilderness?
  - I have the power to save you
  - I have the power to care for you no matter the circumstances
- I am all you're looking for!
- Give me the eyes to see!
  - Save me!
  - I will follow you!