

Say Again

Mark Chapter 8 - Why we go to church? 1) To learn and learn again; 2) because of leaven; 3) and to see clearer.

Mar 8:1 **1) Multitude Feeding 201** vs 1-9

In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and *said to them,

Mar 8:2 "I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat.

Mar 8:3 "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."

- *Jesus and His disciples are in Gentile territory (region of the Decapolis)*
- *A large group has assembled and has been with Jesus, listening to him teach for three days. Verse 3 says some of these have come a long way to be there.*
- *Jesus again has compassion. We have seen Jesus have compassion on the 5000 and on the crowds before.*
- *Some people think Jesus only concerned himself about his disciples. While there may have been a deeper teaching for those who have laid down their life to be a disciple, but Jesus cares for those crowds as well.*

Mar 8:4 And His disciples answered Him, "Where will anyone be able {to find enough} bread here in {this} desolate place to satisfy these people?"

Mar 8:5 And He was asking them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."

Mar 8:6 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.

Mar 8:7 They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well.

- *It is interesting that the disciples have seen this before.*
- *Yet the disciples know they do not have any power to multiply food to feed these.*
- *But they have learned from the last multitude feeding. Last time the disciples said to send the crowds away. Jesus said NO. This time the disciples are very careful not to say, "send them away." Yet they are still powerless with out Jesus.*

Mar 8:8 And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces.

Mar 8:9 About four thousand were {there;} and He sent them away.

- *Chapter 6 we watched Jesus feed 5000 men + women and children. This was done in Jewish country. Here in Chapter 8, Jesus and his disciple are in Gentile country feeding the multitudes. Jesus is not a respecter of persons.*
- *The people ate until they were gluttoned (KJV)*
- *The Last Multitude Feeding was to Jews and there were 12 baskets left over. 12 is a common number when dealing with the Jews. 12 tribes of Israel.*
- *In this Multitude Feeding 7 baskets were left over. This to the Gentiles. Revelation Jesus had John write to the 7 Churches. Paul writes letters to 7 churches. Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Colossi, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica.*

Mar 8:10 **2) Bread Verses Leaven** vs 10-21

And immediately He entered the boat with His disciples and came to the district of Dalmanutha.

Mar 8:11 The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him.

Mar 8:12 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."

Mar 8:13 Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.

Mar 8:14 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them.

Mar 8:15 And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

- *"Watch Out! Beware" The tense of these words combined is "Continually Be Cautious."*
- *Leaven is that element that will effect the entire batch. The picture of leaven is that it is a picture of SIN. Just a small amount will ruin the entire batch.*
- *Leaven of the Pharisees - The Pharisees held to Law and the Traditions of the Elders (Oral Law) They added to the Law. Adding more constraints and legalism to the Word of God.*
- *Leaven of Herod - The Herodians were a political movement that concerned themselves as to how their culture and politics meshed. They would shape mold twist delete from the Law to fit the social / political influences of the day.*
- *Even today, right now we must continually watch out for the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod. We ourselves are capable of adding to, taking away or twisting the Word of God. Jesus is telling you and me to continually watch yourself. Be careful how you answer people that ask you about Jesus, Church, Religion, God.*

Mar 8:16 They {began} to discuss with one another {the fact} that they had no bread.

- *The density of these disciples amazes me until I examine myself and realize I do this same thing.*
- *You see these guys trying so hard to understand what is really being said.*
- *Fine Art Critic discussing a painting describes that the artist is expressing through the contrasts of light and darkness the latent anger from the child's birth when he was forced to leave the love and warmth of the womb to enter the harsh cold world. When the artist walked up he was asked why he painted the work. He replied he was bored and decided to paint a bowl of fruit.*

Mar 8:17 And Jesus, aware of this, *said to them, 1)"Why do you discuss {the fact} that you have no bread? 2)Do you not yet see or understand? 3)Do you have a hardened heart?

Mar 8:18 4)"HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? 5)AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? 6)And do you not remember,

Mar 8:19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, 7)how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They *said to Him, "Twelve."

Mar 8:20 8)"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."

Mar 8:21 And He was saying to them, 9)"Do you not yet understand?"

- *Jesus asks 9 questions to his disciples. He is asking them questions not to belittle them but to make them understand.*

Mar 8:22 **3) Blind to Fuzzy, Fuzzy to Clear** vs 22-26

And they *came to Bethsaida. And they *brought a blind man to Jesus and *implored Him to touch him.

Mar 8:23 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?"

Mar 8:24 And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see {them} like trees, walking around."

Mar 8:25 Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and {began} to see everything clearly.

Mar 8:26 And He sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

- *Healing the blind is the most recorded healing from our Lord.*
- *We see three stages of sight*
- **Total Blindness** - *We were all in this state. Not knowing what we were missing but knowing that things are not right. Not being able to really knowing that things are going on around us.*
- **Partial Blindness** - *We enter this process that Jesus has saved us and has given us his Word and His Spirit. Here we wrestle with what we are now seeing but understanding and perception isn't perfect.*
1 Cor 13:12 "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."
- **Perfect Sight** - *We have the promise that one day we will be with Jesus in glory. Then we shall have perfect sight and understanding*

In his brilliant new book, Catching the Light, quantum physicist Arthur Zajonc writes of what he describes as the "entwined history of light and mind" (correctly described by one admirer as the "two ultimate metaphors of the human spirit"). For our purposes, his initial chapter is most helpful.

From both the animal and human studies, we know there are critical developmental "windows" in the first years of life. Sensory and motor skills are formed, and if this early opportunity is lost, trying to play catch up is hugely frustrating and mostly unsuccessful.

Prof. Zajonc writes of studies which investigated recovery from congenital blindness. Thanks to cornea transplants, people who had been blind from birth would suddenly have functional use of their eyes. Nevertheless, success was rare. Referring to one young boy, "the world does not appear to the patient as filled with the gifts of intelligible light, color, and shape upon awakening from surgery," Zajonc observes. Light and eyes were not enough to grant the patient sight. "The light of day beckoned, but no light of mind replied within the boy's anxious, open eyes."

Zajonc quotes from a study by a Dr. Moreau who observed that while surgery gave the patient the "power to see," "the employment of this power, which as a whole constitutes the act of seeing, still has to be acquired from the beginning." Dr. Moreau concludes, "To give back sight to a congenitally blind person is more the work of an educator than of a surgeon." To which Zajonc adds, "The sober truth remains that vision requires far more than a functioning physical organ. Without an inner light, without a formative visual imagination, we are blind," he explains. That "inner light" -- the light of the mind -- "must flow into and marry with the light of nature to bring forth a world."

National Right to Life News, March 30, 1993, p. 22.

Mar 8:27 **4) Who do You Say I Am?** vs 27-38

Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?"

- *Caesarea Philippi is north of the Sea of Galilee. Not to be mistaken with Caesarea west of the Sea of Galilee on the Mediterranean Sea. Caesarea Philippi has the name of Caesar and of Philip the Tetrarch of Herod. Remember Herod had his brother's, Philip's wife and John the Baptist rebuked him.*
- *Caesarea Philippi is the gate of pagan worship. Here the Greeks worshiped Pan. Pan was half goat half man and was the god of shepherds.*
- *In Caesarea Philippi there was a spring that gushed forth from a cave. That spring and joining with the spring that came forth from Mount Hermon joined to form the Jordan River.*
- *In the 1920's the border came in dispute between Lebanon and Syria. It was over this area of Banyas*

Spring. In the 1960s Syria was trying to divert the water for its own agricultural uses, this would have devastated Israel being their only source of water. But on June 10th 1967, the last day of the 6 day war, Israel took this area (Golan Heights) from the Syrian forces and gained total control of the water as well as the strategic position overlooking Israel.

- Jesus says to His disciples "Who do people say that I am?" not for His understanding, but for theirs.
- We like to hear what people say about us (sometimes we like it, if it is good).

Mar 8:28 They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others {say} Elijah; but others, one of the prophets."

- Everybody has an opinion as to who Jesus is.
 - John the Baptist - Speaking out concerning government/leaders for reform for the people.
 - Elijah - The Miracle Man. Performing the Power of God on behalf of the people. (Malachi 4:5 says the Elijah would return.)
 - A Prophet - A teacher for the people to instruct, encourage or discipline.
- These are not three wrong answers.
- Our modern day churches define Jesus this way as well. Jesus gave us the example for living and we are to be a church of social action, or a church that demonstrates the power of God, or we are to be a Bible teaching church. These are all good things but individually or each isolated from the other is out of balance. Jesus is more than one of these three. He is more than these three combined.

Mar 8:29 And He {continued} by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter *answered and *said to Him, "You are the Christ."

Mar 8:30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him.

- "But who do YOU say that I am?" - Jesus wanted the disciples to evaluate the thoughts of their own hearts. They have been forming opinions. Jesus wanted them to know their own opinions and move from a place of being opinionated to being activated. Our opinions will effect how we act.
- Prov 27:19 "As in water face {reflects} face, So the heart of man {reflects} man."
- Christian Speak will normally kill a conversation. The CS answers are "Savior", "Lord", "the Messiah", "God Incarnate", "2nd person in the Trinity", When you hear Christian Speak you need to press for more information. Define terminology.
- "Tell no one about Him" -- The reason is that this was only realized in the disciples. Matt 16:17 says that Flesh and blood did not reveal this but that the Father in heaven did.
- Here is an instance where Jesus does not want His disciples witnessing concerning Him. They have confessed and believe He is the Messiah. What better thing to share. But there are a couple of things that need to be dealt with before they tell anyone about Christ. Their Interests and their Life.

Their Interests

Mar 8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mar 8:32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

Mar 8:33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and *said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

- God's Interests verses Man's Interest
- Col 1:19-22 "For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:"
- Verse 32 "stating the matter plainly" Jesus was very clear and understandable to the disciple what will be happening. Jesus said that he MUST suffer.
- Peter took Jesus aside to correct Jesus. Peter's understanding of the Messiah was not complete.
- Fascinating after Peter is so highly commended for his confession. See Matthew 16. Possibly this is just as we do after accomplishing something so wonderful for God we then think we can correct God. Our

mind is not on God's interests.

- *Man's interest is ME! How will it affect ME! God's interest is how He will affect others. Jesus obviously did not suffer many things, did not become rejected by the elders /chief priests and scribes, was not killed for his own interests. But for God's interest.*
- *You are God's Interest.*
- *Interesting He know Peter's temptation is from Satan. The temptation to be concerned about man's interest. Not necessarily some large wicked, evil. But just being concerned about your self or the interest of man is from Satan at times.*

Their Life

Mar 8:34 **And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**

- *Jesus addresses the manner of their life.*
 - *Must Deny Himself - this is in the aorist tense. Meaning a fixed point in time. To be a follower of Christ a man must come to the point of His Lordship. He must come to the place of switching places with the Lord. The man must deny himself and purposely put Jesus first above all else in his life. It is in the aorist tense this happens once in the believer's life. John the Baptist said, "I must decrease but he must increase." Denying Self isn't self denial. Self denial is momentary temporary self sacrifice. Denying self is a permanent lifestyle of governance in your life. The Lord is to govern. Self denial is still your idea and your timing. It fits your tolerance, patience and comfort level.*
 - *Take Up His Cross - Again in an aorist tense. This happens once. We do not pick up and put down and then pick up again this instrument of death. The cross has been sanitized and beautified. It was an executioner's tool. Death was the purpose of the cross. The Romans made Jesus carry His cross through the streets to Golgotha. The Romans wanted to show his how humbled is defeat was. But Philipians says, "He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:" not a defeat but victory. Your cross is not His. His will be a sacrifice for sin. Yours is simply to remove self. Your mother in law or that person in your life is not you cross to bear. Your cross is removal of self.*
 - *Follow Me - This is in the present tense, meaning a continual action. It is not a fixed point that you can look back on it is a continual progressing following.*

Mar 8:35 **"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.**

- *Have you ever felt like you were losing it? A relationship? a situation? Yes you might be losing it! Following Him is contrary to the way the entire world tells us to live. Yes you are losing it. It feels awful it lose.*
- *But lose you life for His sake and the gospel's. And as God did so for Christ as we see in Philipians 2, God will give you life. Will save your life.*

Mar 8:36 **"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?**

Mar 8:37 **"For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

- *A man's soul is the focus here. It speaks of profit or value.*
- *The whole world is not as valuable as you individual soul. Do you grasp this concept? Your soul is more valuable to you than everything that is marketed to you.*
- *Jesus didn't come in riches and glory and called men to follow Him. This is because He would have had the affluent and powerful following Him. But He came simple and poor and asked for people to follow. People are less likely to be hypocrites the more difficult it is..*

Mar 8:38 **"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."**

- *Jesus is looking past this present moment, this present life we live to a specific day.*
- *How did Jesus suffer all these things? His focus was on this glorious day when He comes in the glory of His Father and the holy angels.*

- *You might say well I'm just looking to get through or survive this next week. Well that might actually be the problem.*

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