

## Not Seeing or Understanding

### **Mark 8:14-26**

Crossroads, April 10, 2011

#### Announcements:

- **This Sat** – BFC YA Fun Day at Victory Valley – **Meet up front tonight**
- **Easter Week**
  - o **Maundy Thursday** – last supper observation here – 8pm
  - o Good Friday – GBFC service - 7pm
  - o Pancake Breakfast – missions fund-raiser – Sat 8-11am
  - o **Crossroads Easter Celebration – Saturday (no CR Sunday)**
    - **Dinner 6pm ; Worship 7pm**
    - **Sign-up by next week for dinner, and to help**
  - o Easter Worship - GBFC service at 9am
- **Compassion** – Katie Yori share / table in back

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#### READ Mark 8:14-30

#### Pray

#### Intro: “How to study the Bible” – OIA

- o *Observation and Interpretation:*
  - *Go hand in hand (see, question, look again, answer....)*
  - *Take work (pencil, or electronic writing, helpful)*

#### Review where we have come from (chiasm of Mark 6-8)

#### Mark 6-8

Call to preach/ go with authority	(Sacrificial Service)
Herod / Ideas about Jesus	
Feed 5,000	
2 <sup>nd</sup> crossing in storm	(Disciples)(Boat, Understand, Hardness)
Defilement / Traditions	(Pharisees)
Syrophoenecian	(Gentiles) (food)
<b>Deaf &amp; Dumb</b>	(Gentiles) <b>Open Ear / Mouth</b>
Feed 4,000	(Gentiles) (food)
Pharisees Argue	(Pharisees)
Leaven of Pharisees & Herod	(Disciples)( Boat, Understand, Hardness)
<b>Blind Man</b>	<b>Opening Eyes - in 2 stages</b>
Ideas about Jesus	
Call to deny self	(Call to Sacrificial Service)

#### 1) Not Seeing or Understanding

##### o Work Through Mark 8:11-15

The **Pharisees** came and began to question Jesus. **To test him**, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it.” Then **he left them**, got **back into the boat** and crossed to the other side.

The **disciples had forgotten to bring bread**, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. “Be careful,” **Jesus warned them**. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

- o Just came from Gentile area where he opens their ears to hear, casting out demons, teaching for days, and feeding thousands ...
- o Then Pharisees come to test him, but He will not give them what they want
- o So now we are in the boat again with the disciples
  
- o Disciples are in boat, and notice they only have 1 loaf of bread
- o Jesus gives them a warning (which we will discuss shortly)
  
- o Work Through Mark 8:16-21

They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we **have no bread.**”

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? **Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?** Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? When I broke the **five loaves for the five thousand**, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

“Twelve,” they replied.

“And when I broke the **seven loaves for the four thousand**, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven.”

He said to them, “**Do you still not understand?**”

- **Jesus makes a very strong accusation against the Disciples**
  - Not see or understand
  - Hard heart
  - Eyes but not see, ears but not hear
  - Sounds very similar to what accusation of Pharisees
  
- **Discuss Interpretation: why is Jesus frustrated with the disciples?**
  - What does he remind them of? - feeding of 5,000 & 4,000
  - Why? – they were focused on lack of bread,
  - Remember last time in boat? Rowing against the wind, they miss Jesus walking on the water, it says they ‘did not understand about the loaves’
  - what did they not understand?
  - Not understand who Jesus is ... focused on wind then, on lack of bread now ... even after see Jesus do much greater things in calming storms and feeding lots of people
  - Since not see who Jesus is, also not listening to His voice and thus also missing what he says!
  
- **Application: Are we any better?**
  - **Assume everything a problem ...**
    - Rather than knowing God with you and trusting Him for even the smallest parts of life
    - Even immediately after God doing much larger miracle we do not expect it in daily life
  
  - **Assume everything about me ...**
    - So focused on yourself that you assume everything Jesus says is about your situation
    - Jesus is giving a serious warning, and they are thinking about lunch!
    - Thus instead of asking about Jesus’ warning, they talk about the bread
  
  - **And what about Jesus’ Warning ...** the disciples seem to totally miss the point ... Do we get it

## 2) Beware the Yeast the Pharisees and Herod

- **Work Through Mark 8:15**

“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the **yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.**”
  
- **Discuss: How do we go about interpreting this statement?**
  
- **Interpretation, and the Observations needs to get there:**  
*(note: will use flip chart for the rest of this section)*
  - **Yeast** (what is it used for ... in Life, and in Bible)
    - Life: yeast to make bread rise
    - Bible: passover – bread without yeast because in a hurry – i.e. no time to let it rise ... thus bread without yeast becomes symbol of holiness
    - Bible: a little yeast leavens the whole lump
    - Conclusions: yeast is the active ingredient that gives the power to rise, and used in scripture with two image – having yeast is negative and is used to illustrate even a little evil makes all evil, and not having yeast is picture of trusting God
  
  - **Beware Yeast of ...**
    - Since it is a warning, he must be referring to something that is negative
    - Since he uses yeast it must be something to do with what goes the Pharisees / Herod their power, their influence, their ability to influence
  
  - **Yeast of Herod / Pharisees**
    - Here is were we need to do go look back at Mark
    - How would we summarize what we have seen of the Pharisees and Herod?
    - (note: this may be another reason Mark spent what seemed like a large section on Herod killing John – he knew we would need to know about Herod to understand what Jesus says here)
    - Chart on next page shows some of the differences between the Kingdoms of Herod and the Pharisees

## Discussion: Lets make a chart comparing Pharisees and Herod

{chart on next page}

- **Yeast of Herod / Pharisees ... Kingdom of God**
  - Lets go back and fill in how the Kingdom of God would look different that the kingdom of Herod and of the Pharisees
- **Application: Heeding Jesus' Warning**
  - **Avoiding the Yeast of Herod**
    - ...
    - ...
  - **Avoiding the Yeast of the Pharisees**
    - ...
    - ...

### 3) Being Made to See

- Work Through Mark 8:22-26

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a **blind man** and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "**Do you see anything?**"

He looked up and said, "**I see people; they look like trees walking around.**"

**Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes.** Then his **eyes were opened**, his sight was restored, and **he saw everything clearly**. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."

- Why does it take two times to heal? Is Jesus tired?
  - When see something odd we should stop ... ask why
  - Maybe there is more to it ... could it be a parable?
  - Living parables of Disciples ... Jesus opens eyes, in two phases ... we will see in next section Disciples get half of who Jesus is, but totally miss second half
  - (note: this passage is more clearly a living parable, which give us more confidence interpreting last week deaf and dumb person as a living parable as well)
- **Interpretation:** How is it that the clueless disciples can be made to see? Jesus needs to do it, and he may do it in phases
- **Application: Opening the Eyes of the Blind**
  - We too are blind – Romans 3
  - We too need God to open our eyes –
  - We need patience with each other – sometimes God opens people's eyes in stages

### Conclusions

- **Beware ... Focusing on Problems**
  -
- **Beware ... Focusing on Self**
  -
- **Beware ... Putting your trust in The World**
  -
- **Beware ... Putting your Trust in Religion**
  -
- **Understand ... You Are Blind**
  -
- **Understand ... Jesus Open's Blind Eyes**
  -
- **Understand ... We Only See in Part**
  -
- **Praise God**
  - That he cares enough to confront us when we do not understand and when we have a heard heart ... and that he has the ability to break hearts and open eyes!

Kingdom of ...	Herod	Pharisees	Jesus
Key Act	Killed John	Voided Scripture	Died, Rose Again
Shepherd	Killed People	Robbed People	Lay down life
Authority	Own Word	Traditions of Man	Word of God
Motivation	Please Men / Personal Pleasure	Obey Men / External Righteousness	Compassion, Sacrifice self
Belief System	Secularism	Traditionalism (Sadducees – Skepticism)	Repent and Believe in God / Jesus
Response to Jesus' Miracles	Misinterpret	Insufficient	Show He is "Son of God" , Christ, God
Final Response to Jesus / Yeast	Unbelief	Unbelief	Faith

**Note on Yeast: Unseen Pervasive Power**

**Parallel passages:** Matt 16:12 – Teaching of ... Pharisees , Luke 12:2 – hypocrisy of ... Pharisees and Sadducees

**NOT Seeing is Believing, but rather Believing is Seeing!**