

## Mark Chapter 8

- Orientation: **Mark 7:31** Departing Tyre & Sidon, coming to the Sea of Galilee, through the coasts / borders of the Decapolis.



- Jesus has just healed the deaf & dumb man and they are greatly amazed.

**V: 1-3** Having had a great multitude around Him, teaching them for 3 days straight.

(Mark 6:35 "When the day was now far spent...")

- Jesus has "**compassion**" on the multitude.
- Compassion: (G-4697). "splanchnizomai;" to have the bowels yearn, i.e. (fig.) feel sympathy, to pity:--have (be moved with) compassion.
- If you were to examine the person and character of our Lord, one of His characteristics describes thus far in this Gospel is that He is "compassionate" towards us:

**Mark 1:41** "Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him..."

**Mark 5:19** "However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "go home to your friends, and tell them, what great things the Lord had done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

**Mark 6:34** "And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them..."

**Psalm 145:8** "The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy."

- Our Great Shepherd knows His flock:

**Psalm 103:14** "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust."

- He understands when we're tired and out of sorts, when we're weak, not up to the task – He has compassion upon us!
- He knows that some have come from far away and may not make it home because they haven't eaten.
  1. Long / lengthy Bible studies – Jesus invented.
  2. So focused, engrossed in the Word that they forgot to eat.

**Matthew 4:4** "... it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

- Jesus met their spiritual need first, then He met their physical need: priorities.

**Matthew 16:26** “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?...”

- Have they been fasting for three days? Or did they just run out of food after 3 days, not sure.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd, watching out for His flock.

**Proverbs 27:23** “Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.”

V: 4 Jesus puts the situation to the disciples. Seemingly giving them an opportunity for input or suggestions. His disciples respond with “how can we feed them?” We’re out in the middle of no where... They acknowledge their own inability.

- They didn’t learn, or forgot the lesson from the feeding of the 5,000.
- They also forgot their history, 40 years in the wilderness and manna from Heaven.
- This is not so different as when God provided for the children of Israel during their wilderness wandering years.
- After God told Moses that He would provide quail / meat for the children of Israel until it came out of their nostrils:

**Numbers 11:21-23** “<sup>21</sup>And Moses said, the people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, “I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.” <sup>22</sup>Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them? <sup>23</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, has the LORD;’s arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not.”

**Psalms 78:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>Yes, they spoke against God: they said, “can God prepare a table in the wilderness? <sup>20</sup>Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” (Yes!)

V: 5 Take stock. This is more than an ordinary question, this is a clue, this should prompt them a little to recall the last time they were asked this question.

**Mark 6:38** “But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see. And when they found out they said, five, and two fish.”

V: 6 Following the same pattern as with the 4,000. Giving thanks / blessing, breaking, giving.

- Jesus gave to His disciples; they gave to the people.

**1 Corinthians 11:23** “What I have received, I have given to you.”

- You can't give what you don't have.

V: 7 They add a few small fish to the meal, multiplying them for the multitude.

- Ends up being a two course meal, first the bread multiplied and served. Then the fish.

V: 8-9 Everyone ate until they were filled, or full and they had 7 large baskets left over.

- 4,000 + women and children. (**Matthew 15:38**)
- Two distinct events: 5,000 (Jews) vs: 4,000 (Gentiles) - 1 day vs: 3 days, 5 loaves / 2 fishes vs: 7 loaves / few fishes. 12 baskets afterwards, vs: 7 large baskets, region of Bethsaida vs: region of Decapolis. Jesus makes the distinction.

V: 10 Map – into the boat and across to Dalmanutha / Magdala – present Migdal.



**Matthew 15:39** “And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.”

V: 11 The Pharisees approached Jesus and begin to dispute / argue with Him. You get the sense of an antagonistic / contrary spirit.

**Proverbs 29:27** “An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.”

- He's the One with the crowd – multitude all around Him, they don't like it.
- They began to question, dispute, or challenge Jesus.

*“Seeking a sign from heaven”*

- From their skewed perspective, all the miracles that Jesus had been doing were “earthly” or “fleshly” – they wanted to see something “from heaven”.
- The Pharisees had a doctrine that Satan could do miracles on Earth, but that only God could work miracles in Heaven or the sky. (Ying & Yang)

- They believed that Jesus' miracles were earthly because they involved men, and earthly things.
- Jesus' miracles of healing, raising the dead, feeding multitudes, calming storms etc. were all done on Earth and didn't qualify as being done by God hence "*show us a sign from Heaven.*"
- Make the clouds part, change the color of the sun and stars.
- They had already been told what the signs would be long before. (Messianic prophecy)

**Isaiah 35:5-6** "5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6Then shall the lame man leap as a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing:..."

- ❖ The world basically says the same thing today. We say to God, "reveal yourself to me, and I'll believe in you." God, who is holding all the cards, says, "believe in me, and I'll reveal myself to you."
- They didn't lack evidence; they lacked a willing heart to receive, they also lacked honesty & humility.

**Jeremiah 17:23** "But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction."

John tells us, speaking of Jesus:

**John 12:37** "37But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him: 38That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

**2 Peter 3:5** "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water."

- Testing Him...

V: 12-13 Jesus is seemingly weary of their questions and tells them they will not receive what they are looking for, Jesus won't put on a show just for them – they either believe or they don't.

**Matthew 16:3, 4** "3... O ye hypocrites.... 4A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah..."

- Jesus leaves them there, departing for Bethsaida.



- Miracles, signs, and wonders – don't produce faith, they validate the speaker, but they don't produce faith – only the Word of God does that.

**Romans 10:17** “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

V: 14 As Jesus and the disciples took off to the other side towards Bethsaida they forgot to take enough bread with them, they did have one loaf, a “seed loaf.”

V: 15-16 The disciples are thinking about bread – worldly things, and Jesus is thinking about spiritual things, specifically the sin of the Pharisees.

- Got milk? Commercials. (Guilty consciences.)
  1. Take heed – be careful.
  2. Leaven = sin
  3. The sin of the Pharisees and of Herod: the sin of hypocrisy / un-belief.

**Proverbs 19:27** “Cease listening to instruction, my son, that causes to err from the words of knowledge.” (Stop listening to bad teaching.)

V: 17-21 The disciples are worried about not having enough bread, right after Jesus had multiplied the loaves and the fishes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time right in front of them – didn't they believe that He could do it again?

- Same faith test, slightly different circumstances.
- It was right in front of them all along, they just didn't recognize it for what it was.
- What was the “leaven” or sin of the Pharisees & Herod? - Disbelief, rejecting the truth, no faith; which kept them from seeing the miracles of Jesus for what they were, God's calling card.

**Hebrews 11:6** “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

**Mark 9:24** “... Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

V: 22-26 Jesus just gets done talking to them about their spiritual blindness and upon landing at Bethsaida they bring a blind man to Jesus.

V: 23 Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of town - can you picture that? The willingness, and the tenderness of our Lord to minister to one person.

- Taking him away from his familiar surroundings, away from the crowd. (Distractions?)
- Taking him away from dependence on men, to dependence on Jesus.
- Jesus spit in his eyes and laid hands on him, asking him what he saw.
- Methodology? Unorthodox, definitely outside the box.

**Mark 7:33** “And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue.”

**John 9:6** “When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.”

- Here He’s spitting in the eyes of a blind man... no fixed pattern.

V: 24 The man saw men like trees, not very clear, still out of focus. One of the only times that we see a gradual healing as opposed to complete and immediate.

**Isaiah 29:18** “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.”

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

V: 25 Jesus places His hands upon the blind man’s eyes and made him look up – and he was then able to see clearly.

- Until we have a heavenly focus we can’t see clearly either.

**Psalms 73:2, 16-17** “<sup>2</sup>But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.” - “<sup>16</sup>When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me - <sup>17</sup>Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.”

- Looking upward (2x) - (He looked up vs: Jesus made him look up) having a spiritual perspective, that is when he really began to see for the first time!

**1 Corinthians 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

V: 26 Don’t go back into town, don’t tell anyone in the town, just go home. Similar to the Demonic in a way, just go home - that will be the witness.

**1 Timothy 3:2, 4, 12** “<sup>2</sup>A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;” - “<sup>4</sup>one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.” - “<sup>12</sup>Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.”

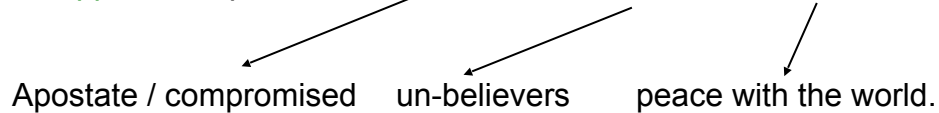
- Ministry begins at home.

V: 27 Into the heart of the Gentile / pagan area, many pagan temples to Caesar, Baal, Pan, etc. The question is asked with the backdrop of options.



- **Molech** = god of pleasure.
- **Baal** = god of intellectual prowess
- **Astureth** = goddess of fertility / sexuality
- **Mammon** = god of power / possessions.
- **Bacchus** = god of libation, liquor, parties.
- **Pan** = god of fields, forests, wild animals.

Caesarea Philippi – Decapolis. Hellenistic Jews & Gentiles, ecumenism.



**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

- Question: “*who do men say that I am?*”

**Matthew 16:13** “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?””

- Besides asking the question, He is identifying Himself as the “*Son of Man*.”
- “*Son of Man*” = Messianic, prophetic title.

**Daniel 7:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”

- This is one of those instances where Jesus claims to be God.

V: 28 Their answer:

More detail:

**Matthew 16:14** “So they said, “some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

- Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist reincarnated.
- Elijah – forerunner to the Messiah, did miracles, called fire down from Heaven.
- Jeremiah – weeping, compassionate, sought to warn the people.
- Prophet(s) – good teacher, man of God.
  
- All complimentary in a way, but all missing the mark.
  
- This question had already been debated some by the people:
  
- Jesus is and has always been a divisive figure:

**John 7:40-43** “<sup>40</sup>Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” <sup>41</sup>Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “will the Christ come out of Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” <sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people because of Him.”

➤ There is still division among the people because of Him to this day.

**1 Peter 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense,” They stumble, being disobedient to the Word, to which they also were appointed.”

- There really is no middle ground here.

**Matthew 12:30** “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

- When you consider the statements that Jesus made about Himself we’re forced to make a decision, either He is a liar, or a lunatic, or He is who He says He is - The Son of God, the Christ, the Savior of the world.

V: 29 Now it gets personal, as it is for each of us – who do you say that I am?

- Peter - Christ: Messiah, the Anointed One.

**Matthew 16:16** “Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus responds to that confession.

**Matthew 16:17** “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”



**1 Corinthians 12:3** "... no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit."

- This is a turning point for Peter and the disciples. They've had discussions and made comments in a gradual progression to finally come to the conclusion on this question.

**Matthew 8:27** (Jesus asleep in the boat) "But the men marveled, saying, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"

**Matthew 14:33** (Jesus walking on water through storm) "Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying of a truth You are the Son of God."

- As Peter makes the statement that Jesus is the Christ, he's moved from Jesus being a good rabbi, or possibly a prophet and so on to acknowledging who and what Jesus is - and Jesus acknowledges this in Peter's heart by declaring:

**Matthew 16:17** "Blessed are thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock (confession), I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

- We commonly refer to Peter as Peter, but he didn't start out that way - up to this point he was referred to as "Simon" - the son of Jonah. At this time our Lord changes his name to "Peter" / "Cephas" - why?
- Simon just declared his personal belief that Jesus is the Messiah the Christ, the Son of the living God - placing His faith in Him. As such Simon became a new creature in Christ Jesus - a believer if you will, so he gets a new name to indicate that, he becomes Peter.
- **Genesis 17:5, Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, James 2:23** - Not at all unlike Abram who believed God, and God accounted it to him for righteousness, then he went from being Abram and became Abraham.
- **Genesis 33:28** - Or Jacob who surrendered to God and became Israel.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

V: 30 He strictly warned them not to tell anyone else. While the time is drawing near, it is still not yet the time.

- This is a consistent admonition because everything is on a set schedule right down to Jesus dismissing His Spirit and a shofar being blown to acknowledge the Passover Lamb being slain.

**Acts 2:23** “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

- To proclaim Jesus publicly as the Messiah at this point would only expedite the religious leaders plans to destroy Him and possibly wreck the timing of the events that would fulfill the various prophecies and purposes of God.

V: 31 Jesus begins to teach them for the first time about the cross – His crucifixion and His resurrection three days later.

- Notice that He would be killed – “...*and after three days rise again.*”
- This is consistent with what He told the religious leaders who demanded a sign from heaven - Jesus said that no sign would be given them except the sign of the prophet Jonah who was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale.
- Three days and three nights swallowed up by death, then resurrected unto new life.
- Without the resurrection, there is no Gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:17-19** “<sup>17</sup>And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup>Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

V: 32-33 Proclaiming Jesus as Messiah one moment; then rejecting & contradicting the Word of God from the Messiah’s lips the very next.

- At that moment, Peter didn’t realize it, but he was telling Jesus to be the Savior apart from the cross – just as when Satan tempted Jesus – don’t go to the cross.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Hebrews 9:22** “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

- Someone has to pay the price, and only Jesus is qualified to do that on our behalf. Thus Peter’s statement had to be corrected.
- Thus the rebuke to the enemy who was the author of both.

V: 34 Jesus couldn’t deny the cross, and if we’re going to follow Him – we can’t deny it either, we must take it up and follow Him.

- The prospect of the cross was cruel and ugly, and there are times when it is just that for us as well. A slow painful process of dying to self.

**Galatians 2:20** “I am / 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 the faith of / in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

- Not just self denial, but denial of self – it is the understanding that “I can’t do it” – I need Jesus!

**Psalm 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

#### V: 35 What do we value more, this life or life eternal?

- If we seek to save our lives - that’s a losing battle, a lost cause already.

**Hebrews 9:27** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

- Everyone dies, at least once.

Born twice - die once.  
Born only once - die twice.

**John 12:25** “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

#### V: 36-37 There is nothing we can trade for our salvation. There is nothing in this life that truly compares to eternity – yet people trade away everlasting life every day.

**John 3:36** “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

**Psalm 49:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, <sup>7</sup>none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him - <sup>8</sup>For the redemption for their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever.”

- Gold and silver won’t cut it, worldly riches are of no use:

**1 Peter 1:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

V: 38 Jesus calls us out publicly – no middle ground, we must make a choice.

**Matthew 10:32-33** “<sup>32</sup>Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

*“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words....”*

**Psalm 119:103-105** “<sup>103</sup>How sweet are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. <sup>105</sup>Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the Word of God is quick / living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**Psalm 119:130** “The entrance of Your Words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”