

Mark: Chapter 8

I. Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (v.1-10)

A. Christ's Compassion for the Crowd's Condition (v.1-3)

1. "In those days" linking to previous passages (Decapolis) - similar but not exactly the same as feeding the 5000 (c.f. v.3 referencing the response to the 5000, and the fact that the crowd has come from far away)
2. Reason for compassion is different than with the 5000; physical here spiritual before
3. Three days following Jesus demonstrates the crowd's devotion
4. The concern is for fainting, not *just* hunger, but Jesus does care about hunger (Mark 5:43) and he does know hunger (Matthew 4:2)
 - a) Demonstrates Jesus's priority of cares
 - b) Soul / salvation (teaching for three days), death (fainting on the way), pain / suffering (hunger)

B. Companion's Concern about Consumption (v.4-7)

1. Disciples ask a similar question as with the 5000
 - a) One commentator points out that it's not *exactly* the same question as before -> not about the money, but the means; in this *desolate* place
 - b) But do *we* forget God's past faithfulness? (Joshua 4:5-7; 8:30; 22:24-27; Judges 8:34; 1 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 106)
 - c) Beware of being incredulous at lack of faith
2. The Disciples have bread this time but didn't bother to think about how they could use that to bless others (c.f. 1 Kings 17:8-16)
3. "gave them to his disciples to set before the people" - hina clause in the Greek, indicating Jesus's purpose in including the disciples (same as in 6:41); compare to "they set them before the crowd" after, as that phrase could have grammatically been excluded
4. Source of all blessings from God - how do we view praying before meals?

C. Conclusion of the Crowd (v.8-10)

1. "were satisfied" - not just that they wouldn't faint. Are we satisfied by the bread of life (John 6:35)?
2. No mention of the effect of the miracle and sent them away afterwards
3. Uncertain location of Dalmanutha / Magadon (Matthew 15:39)

II. Beware the Pharisees (v.11-21)

A. Inquiring of a Sign (v.11-13)

1. Purpose is to test, not to assuage doubts
 - a) Contrast this with Exodus 4:1-9; Judges 6:15-21, 36-40
2. Sighed in his spirit - the Pharisees' hardness of hearts affects him

3. No sign except the sign of Jonah (Matthew 16:4; c.f. Luke 16:29-31) - do we seek “signs” from God?

B. Insoluble Misunderstanding (v.14-17)

1. Again with the bread! Stir up compassion - most of the time it seems they had to bring bread around rather than eat miracle bread
2. Leaven - causes the whole dough to rise (Matthew 13:33; 1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9)
 - a) For them, the pervasive anti-Gospel culture was the religiosity of the Pharisees and the political culture of Herod, but what is it for us? “Asian” culture? A disproportionate focus on social justice?
3. Hardness of heart ([TGC - Tony Reinke](#))
 - a) What hardens our hearts? Sin
 - (1) Heart of stone (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - (2) Rejection of God, even in “ignorance” (Ephesians 4:18)
 - (3) Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 5:20)
 - (4) Fully hardened heart probably = seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:1-2), unforgivable sin (Mark 3:29); c.f. Romans 1:24-25, 32
 - b) How are our hearts hardened?
 - (1) Human Active - Hebrews 3:8, 15; Proverbs 28:14
 - (2) Human Passive - Mark 6:52; Hebrews 3:13
 - (3) God Active - Pharaoh hardening his heart (then God hardening his heart) (Exodus 7:13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 34-35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10); Romans 9:17-18 -> leads to fully hardened heart
 - c) How can we soften our hearts?
 - (1) Repentance and forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
 - (2) Fellowship (Hebrews 3:13)
 - (3) Humble ourselves before the Lord (Proverbs 28:14; James 4:6-8)

C. Interrogation of Understanding (v.18-21)

1. Ezekiel 12:2; Jeremiah 5:21 for indictment
2. Description of a hard heart - inability to understand (v.17, 21), see / hear, remember (v.18)
3. Big deal for us - when trials come, how do we act?
 - a) Do we not understand (c.f. James 1:2-4; Romans 8:28-29)?
 - b) Do we not see / hear (c.f. Matthew 6:26; Romans 1:20)?
 - c) Do we not remember (c.f. Psalm 106:7, 13, 21)?

III. Opening of Blind Eyes (v.22-30)

A. From Trees to People (v.22-26)

1. Bethsaida (Mark 6:45, 53) - finally arrive in Gentile territory
 - a) Jesus teaches them that the Gospel is for Gentiles as well
 - b) The Gospel is for everyone, but not everyone will accept the Gospel
 2. Two stages of sight - trees, then full restoration; parable for the Disciples' understanding of Jesus as Messiah
- B. From Prophet to Christ to Lord and Savior (v.27-30)
1. Caesarea Philippi - northeast of Bethsaida / Sea of Galilee
 2. Disciples repeat common guesses (Mark 6:14-15)
 3. Fuzziness of Peter's "sight" - stage one here
 - a) All of Scripture points to Christ (Luke 24:27)
 - b) But, who is Christ really to us? (2 Timothy 4:6-8)
 - (1) 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - (2) 2 Timothy 4:11
- IV. Jesus is the Christ (v.31-38)
- A. Overview
1. Disciples' progression of faith: calling (Mark 3:13-19) to questioning (Mark 4:41) to unbelief (Mark 6:52) to confession (Mark 8:29); but they always believed (John 1:41)
 2. All men will one day be held accountable for their answer to the question, "who is Jesus Christ?" (Hebrews 9:27)
- B. The Path of Christ (v.31-32a)
1. First of three times in a short period that Jesus foretells His death and resurrection
 2. The Disciples do not understand (Mark 9:30-32; Luke 18:31-34)
 3. OT future rule of the King (Psalm 2; Psalm 110; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Zechariah 14; Joel 2-3) -> Second Coming
 4. Four steps in the path of suffering
 - a) Suffer many things (Isaiah 53:3-4)
 - b) Rejection (Psalm 118:22)
 - c) Death (Isaiah 53:5; c.f. Zechariah 12:10)
 - d) Resurrection (Psalm 16:8-11; c.f. Acts 2:22-32; 13:35-37)
- C. The Heart of Christ (v.32b-33)
1. Same "rebuke" as in Mark 4:39; Peter was trying to tell the Lord that He was wrong
 2. One of the strongest rebukes in the whole Gospel account - does it merit such a strong response?
 3. Peter was setting his mind on man's interests - comfort, wealth, prosperity, safety, prestige, status

4. God's interests are for His glory through the redemption and salvation of man (Genesis 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)
 5. This is the heart of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8)
- D. The Cost of Christ (v.34-38)
1. Hard words, impossible words (Mark 10:27; Philippians 4:13)
 2. But, still an open invitation
 3. Three part cost
 - a) Denial of self - Galatians 2:20
 - b) Take up your crosses - death
 - c) Follow Christ - emulate His life (1 John 2:6)
 4. Four explanatory statements
 - a) Those who wish to avoid such a path will face the later judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - b) Fleeting and temporary pleasures of this world are not worth the cost of one's soul
 - c) No amount of earthly riches, fame, or fortune can purchase eternal salvation
 - d) Are we ashamed?
 - (1) Shame can help bring us back to the Lord
 - (2) But, we are often ashamed of things that shouldn't matter and not ashamed of what does (Jeremiah 6:15)
 - (3) Do we see the surpassing worth of knowing Christ (Philippians 3:8)?

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