

WEEK 18  
7/5 Mark 8:1-21  
The Kingdom of God is Near

[GOSPEL OF MARK \(YouTube 5:33\)](#)

[Mark 8 Explained \(8:51\)](#)

[THE GOSPEL OF MARK \(Movie 7:48\)](#)

[Mark 8:1-33 Skip Heitzig \(59:10\) Calvary Chapel](#)

[When Things Go From Bad to Worse - Part 1 - Mark 8:1-16 -Chris Brown - 52:30  
Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

[When Things Go From Bad to Worse - Part 2 - Chris Brown - Mark 8:16-26 \(52:39\)  
Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

***Preaching from the Word: Mark – Jesus, Servant and Savior***

- In the feeding of the 5,000 the disciples expressed their skepticism at the possibility of providing food for the multitude (6:37, 38; John 6:5–8). With the 4,000 they simply confessed their powerlessness to do anything, and left the solution to Jesus.
- The 5,000 were exclusively Jews, but the 4,000 were fed in the Decapolis, a predominantly Gentile area
- There are at least three things Christ wanted his disciples (and us) to see in these miracles. First, he wanted them to understand that he was the Bread of Life. Second, Christ wanted his disciples to understand that he was not just Bread for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles. Third, the supply always meets and exceeds the demand.
  - The fact that Jesus was the Bread of Heaven went all the way back to his birth in Bethlehem, which is literally the “city of bread.” And on the final evening of his life he took bread and broke it and said, “This is my body which is for you” (1 Corinthians 11:24). Thus at the beginning and end of his earthly Incarnation Christ powerfully underscored the great fact that he was the Bread of Life.
  - Moreover, the leftover bread was not picked up in the traditional smaller bottle-shaped baskets of the Jews as in the feeding of the 5,000, but in large wicker hampers, the kind used to lower Paul over the city wall of Damascus in escape (Acts 9:25).

- Here there were seven great baskets, the number of fullness and completion, as Christ is more than sufficient for the whole world!
- **None of us have ever eaten as much as he wants to give us.**
- With the completion of this event, the disciples had seen two stupendous miracles in which thousands of people were fed. Yet had they really seen the miracles?
- THE BLINDNESS OF JESUS' ENEMIES (vv. 11–13)
  - This was a diabolical repeat of Satan's temptation of Christ in the wilderness when he tried to get Jesus to do something stupendous, saying if he would do so he would give Christ the kingdoms of the world (Matthew 4:8, 9). It was a temptation to take the easy way, apart from the Father's will. Jesus would have no part of it.
  - He sighed deeply [grieved at their moral perversity] 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. (vv. 12, 13)
  - Jesus knew the hardness of their hearts
  - The only sign they would get was that signified by Jonah—the Resurrection!
  - What a terrible thing it is to have Christ turn his back on you and sail away
- THE DULLNESS OF JESUS' DISCIPLES (vv. 14–21)
  - The disciples were dull, that is for sure! Physically, Jesus and his disciples were together in the boat, but in their minds they were a universe apart. He gave them a spiritual warning, which they misinterpreted because of their material mind-set.
  - In those questions Jesus told them that their lack of understanding was due to a hardness of heart. Of course, they were not hardened to him. They were his followers. Their problem here came from familiarity. The repeated exposure to his teaching, when not reflected upon and acted upon, worked a progressive insensitivity and dullness in their lives. We experience this as well when we fail to think and act upon what God has revealed to us. It was a case of "use it or lose it." They were not appropriating what they were seeing and hearing.
  - If the disciples had truly reflected on the spiritual significance of the miracle feasts, they would have advanced far beyond where they were in their spiritual growth. They would have seen Jesus as the wielder of omnipotence. The multiplication of bread was a creation miracle! Christ could do anything. The twelve baskets and the seven hampers of bread taught that he was bread for the whole world—Jews and Gentiles. The bread taught there was no life apart from him. If they would only have pursued the gluttony recommended in Scripture—feasting on Christ!

- Christ ended with one final question. It is best to see it not as a continuation of the rebuke, but as a searching appeal to the disciples. He said to them in verse 21, “Do you still not understand?” That is, “Now that I have reminded you that there were twelve bushels left from the Jewish feeding and seven from the Gentile feeding, do you still not understand that I am the Bread of Life for the whole world?”
- This is a question for our own hearts. Is he our Bread? Do we understand what this means for the way we live? Do we understand what it means for the world?
- Remember, meditate, live!

### **Tim Keller Study Guide**

Based on Jesus's words in Mark 8:11–21, what problem do you think Jesus had with the religious leaders' request for proof of his authority? What does it betray about the peoples' attitude toward him?

Why do you think Jesus has such hard words for the religious leaders? What are they missing? What does Jesus want from them instead?

What's one thing you think Jesus might be asking of you this week?

Jesus loves his people. He's strong enough to protect us from harm, and powerful enough to rescue us from what seems like unreachable places. No one's too far gone for him to reach.

### ***Exalting Jesus in Mark***

Which subjects did you enjoy in school? Which subjects required a lot of instruction and assistance before you “got it”?

How would you respond to someone who claimed the feeding of the five thousand (6:35-44) and the feeding of the four thousand (8:1-9) are really the same event reported twice by Mark (and Matthew)?

What is the significance of this feeding taking place in Gentile territory?

How is Jesus' compassion and concern for the physical needs of the Gentile crowd indicative of His concern for our spiritual state?

When we are faced with an impossible situation and we want to turn it over to God, how do we go about doing that?

How do these miraculous feeding episodes serve as a sign of the inbreaking of the kingdom of God?

What is the difference between testing God in faith and testing Him in unbelief?

Have you ever encountered someone who wouldn't accept your explanation of Christianity even if you used sound logic? What would it take to get through to such a person?

As we face new challenges, how can we increase the chances that we will remember God's mighty works from the past and His words of encouragement?

## **OUTLINE**

### **Sometimes We Just Don't Get It!**

#### **MARK 8:1-21**

**Main Idea:** Jesus has the power to overcome our spiritual blindness and open our eyes that we may see.

#### **I. Jesus Always Has a Plan, but We May Only See a Problem (8:1-10).**

A. Jesus cares (8:1-3).

B. Jesus provides (8:4-7).

C. Jesus satisfies (8:8-10).

#### **II. Unbelievers Will Demand a Sign but Reject One When They See It (8:11-13).**

A. They test the Lord (8:11).

B. They grieve the Lord (8:12).

C. They lose the Lord (8:13).

#### **III. Disciples Will See Great Works but Fail to Fully Understand (8:14-21).**

A. We still may misunderstand our Lord's words (8:14-16).

B. We still may misunderstand our Lord's work (8:17-21).