

“Training of the Twelve”
“A Journey with Jesus” Part 13
Mark 8:1-26

1. Slow learners.

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand men were present.

Mark 8:1-9

Comparing Jesus' Feeding Miracles:

Feeding the 5,000

- 5 loaves, 2 fish.
- The 5,000 had been with Jesus one day.
- 12 baskets of fragments left over.
- The miracle took place in Galilee.
- A predominately Jewish audience.

Feeding the 4,000

- 7 loaves, a few fish.
- The 4,000 had been with Jesus three days.
- 7 baskets of fragments left over.
- The miracle took place in the Decapolis.
- A predominately Gentile audience.

Application: Jesus is demonstrating once again His compassion for all people and the mission of the disciples.

"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
2:21

Acts

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

Acts 10:43-45

That if you *confess* with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you *confess* and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly *blesses* all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:9-13

2. Sign seekers.

And having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. 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.

Mark 8:10-13

Points to consider:

- The Pharisees are still angry at Jesus for calling them hypocrites.
- They are not looking for an earthly sign, like healing or miraculous feeding. They want a sign from heaven.
- Mark is writing primarily for Gentiles so he does not include words concerning the prophet Jonah.
- What is the sign of the prophet Jonah? (Death, Burial, and Resurrection) The proof that Jesus is who He claimed to be is the fact of His own death, burial, and resurrection.

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead... God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact." Acts 2:22-24 and 32

Application: There is one way for all people to have peace with God. That peace, a relationship, and eternal life, comes by believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus, who was God in the flesh.

3. Patient teacher.

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." 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?" Mark 8:14-21

Points to consider:

- The disciples are thinking about food.
- When Jesus gives them a warning about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the evil of accepting the Roman way of life, they thought they were getting in trouble for forgetting food to eat.
- Leaven in the Bible always refers to sin and evil.

Application: We can never be too careful about detecting and avoiding false doctrine. Even a small deviation from the Word can bring devastating results to both individuals and to churches.

4. A slow miracle.

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."

Mark 8:22-26

Points to consider:

- The unique thing about this miracle is that it occurred gradually not instantly.
- Could this miracle be an illustration to the disciples of their faith?

Application: Don't seek *signs*. Live by *faith*. Trust Jesus to *meet your needs*. Avoid the leaven of *false doctrine* and *worldly fulfillment*. Expect *variety* in the way Jesus works.