

A Revelation, a confession, 4000 fed and 2 eyes opened

Mark 8: 1-38

Four Thousand People Fed

⁸ In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus summoned His disciples and said to them, ²“I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me for three days already and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a great distance.” ⁴ And His disciples replied to Him, “Where will anyone be able to find enough bread here in this desolate place to satisfy these people?” ⁵ And He was asking them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.” ⁶ And He directed the people to recline on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve, and they served them to the people. ⁷ They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He told the disciples to serve these as well. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces. ⁹ About four thousand men were there; and He dismissed them. ¹⁰ And immediately He got into the boat with His disciples and came to the region of Dalmanutha. ¹¹ And the Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, demanding from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. **Mark 8:1-11**

NASB

- Jesus has compassion on His followers and asks the disciples how much food they have.
- They find 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish.
- Jesus ‘blessed’ the bread and the fish and had the disciples feed all 4000 people.
- 7 large baskets of leftovers.
- Jesus tells the well-fed crowd to return to their homes and He and the disciples leave too.

¹² Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, “Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation!” ¹³ And leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side. ¹⁴ And the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. ¹⁵ And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶ And they began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no

bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet comprehend or understand? Do you still have your heart hardened? ¹⁸ HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? And do you not remember, ¹⁹ when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” ²⁰ “When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.” ²¹ And He was saying to them, “Do you not yet understand?” **Mark 8:12-21 NASB**

- The Pharisees showed up to ‘test’ Jesus, to debate, argue and dispute Him and to get a ‘sign’.
- Jesus says-No ‘sign’ from heaven for you.
- His teachings and His signs and wonders were not so much given to convince spectators but to show God’s love to people in need.
- They were signs to people humble and open enough to receive them and perceive their meaning.
- He and His men traveled to the other side of the water and the disciples forget to bring bread.
- Jesus uses this as a teaching moment.
- He warns them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. He references the ‘evil’ meaning of the dangerous ways of the Pharisees. They don’t see it and are discussing why they had no bread!

⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. **Mark 6:51-52**

- Jesus asks them- Don’t you remember. Are your hearts hardened?

Jesus, in Mark’s account here, is warning the disciples against falling into the Pharisees’ mistake of needing incontrovertible (not able to deny or dispute) proof about who he was (8:11), or of Herod in refusing to follow the light he had and authorizing the death of John the Baptist (6:14-29). All they can think about is bread for their next meal! If the Pharisees are demanding a special display of divine pyrotechnics in the heavens to

convince them, the disciples have not yet got their eyes off ground level! The one group is demanding far too much; the other expecting far too little. ~ **Donald English**

It is illegal, once you have experienced supernatural provision, to begin a thought process with what you lack or do not have. ~ **Bill Johnson**

We need to live our lives with ‘memorial stones’.

4 Now when the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ²“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and command them, saying, ‘Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet are standing firmly, and carry them over with you and lay them down in the encampment where you will spend the night.’” ⁴ So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe; ⁵ and Joshua said to them, “Cross again to the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. ⁶ This shall be a sign among you; when your children ask later, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ ⁷ then you shall say to them, ‘That the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.’ So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever.” **Joshua 4:1-7 NASB**

- The testimony I gave last week about the lady with the metal rod in her leg, is a ‘memorial stone’ to me.

²² And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought a man who was blind to Jesus and *begged Him to touch him. ²³ Taking the man who was blind by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting in his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, “Do you see anything?” ²⁴ And he looked up and said, “I see people, for I see them like trees, walking around.” ²⁵ Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly. ²⁶ And He sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.” **Mark 8:22-26 NASB**

- People come to meet Jesus in many ways. The Lord comes and finds the demonic. The Syrophenician woman comes to Him. Four friends bring the paralytic to Him and people bring the blind man in Mark chapter eight. The main issue is that they do meet him.
- The ‘crowd’ thought they had it figured out. Just touch this man and he will be well.
- Jesus knew better.
- Jesus honors their faith but doesn’t cater to their demand or preconception. He knew what He was going to do.
- His approach didn’t ‘fit’. The outcome was perfect but the method would not be understood by most of the people.
- Jesus perfectly answers their ‘imperfect faith’ but not in their requested manner.
- He who has faith will ‘see’. He who demands miracles will likely be disappointed.

²⁷ Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ They told Him, saying, “John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And He continued questioning them: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And He warned them to tell no one about Him. ³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise from the dead. ³² And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes, but on man’s.” ³⁴ And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what could a person give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” **Mark 9:27-38 NASB**

- Who do you say that I am?
- You are the Christ-The Son of God!

Peter rebukes Jesus:

³² And He said this freely (frankly, plainly, and explicitly, making it unmistakable). And Peter took Him by the hand *and* led Him aside and then [facing Him] began to rebuke Him. ³³ But turning around [His back to Peter] and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, Get behind Me, Satan! For you do not have a mind intent on promoting what God wills, but what pleases men [you are not on God's side, but that of men]. **Mark 8:32-33 AMPC**

- Jesus calls the disciples and the crowd together.
- Don't be self-centered. Deny your own way and take up 'My Way'.

³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life in the eternal kingdom of God]? ³⁷ For what can a man give as an exchange (a compensation, a ransom, in return) for his [blessed] life [in the eternal kingdom of God]? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed [here and now] of Me and My words in this adulterous (unfaithful) and [preeminently] sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory (splendor and majesty) of His Father with the holy angels. **Mark 8:36-38 AMPC**