



Mark 8 Defining Moments

- A. Dinner is Served [8:1-10]
- B. Demanding Pharisees [8:11-13]
- C. Discipling the Apostles [8:14-21]
- D. Delivering a Blind Man [8:22-26]
- E. Declarative Confession [8:27-30]
- F. Defining Moments [8:31-38]

[1] Passion Prediction [31-32a]

[2] Peter's Problem [32b-33]

Not on My Watch!

[3] Profit and Loss [34-38]

True vs. False Discipleship

1. Read Mark 8:1-10. What does the feeding of the four thousand reveal about Jesus' compassion and ability to provide?
2. Read Mark 8:11-13. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees' demand for a sign, and what does this teach us about faith and skepticism? [see also 1 Corinthians 1:22]
3. Read Mark 8:14-21. What lessons can be learned from Jesus' interaction with his disciples regarding the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod?
4. Reflect on Peter's confession and the challenges of understanding Jesus' mission and pray for the courage to embrace the path of true discipleship: denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus wholeheartedly.

[Mark 8:1-10] In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them, [Matthew 15:32-39, Mark 6:32-44] ² "I have compassion on the crowd, [Matthew 9:36] because they have been with me now three days [focuses on the severity of the situation] 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 far away." [Jesus alludes to the fact that many had come from far away - Gentiles] [Acts 2:39, Ephesians 2:17] ⁴ And His disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" [wilderness] ⁵ And He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." [Matthew 16:10] ⁶ And He directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, He broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, [Matthew 14:19] He said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied. [What a picture! Points to redemption through Jesus - true satisfaction] [Isaiah 25:6-8] And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. [Mark 8:5, Matthew 6:10] ⁹ And there were about four thousand people. And He sent them away. ¹⁰ And immediately He got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

[Mark 8:11-13] The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, [hostile challenge] [Matthew 16:1-2] seeking from Him a sign from heaven [1 Corinthians 1:22, Matthew 12:38, Luke 11:16, 21:11] to test him. [test - same verb used when Mark describes the temptation of Jesus by Satan in the wilderness] [Matthew 4:1, John 8:6] ¹² And He sighed deeply in His spirit [hapax legomenon - deep frustration and grief] and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? [Mark 8:12b] Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." ¹³ And He left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

[Mark 8:14-16] Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; [Luke 12:1] beware of the leaven of the Pharisees [1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 5:9] and the leaven of Herod." [In NT Leaven was the symbol of unholiness, sin, or evil] [3:6, 12:13] ¹⁶ And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. [The disciples missed these vital truths arguing over a lack of bread]

"THROUGH PETER'S EYES" THE READING CHALLENGE [GOSPEL OF MARK]

Read Mark 8 and 9

Answer the question: What did you learn about Jesus in these chapters?

[Mark 8:17-18] ^{17a} And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, [8 Questions]

Q 1-5 (Rhetorical) Jesus points to the lack of spiritual insight [Mark 8:17-18]

[1] [17b] “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? (missed the abundance)

[2] [17c] Do you not yet perceive or understand? [7:18] [3] Are your hearts hardened? [6:52]

[4] [18a] Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear [Isaiah 6:9]

[5] [18b] HINGE: **And do you not remember?** (Spiritual Amnesia)

[Jeremiah 5:21, Ezekiel 12:2, Isaiah 42:18-19, 43:8, Matthew 13:13]

Q 6-8 (Real) Jesus’ questions lead them back to faith [Mark 8:19-21]

[6] [19a] “When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”
They said to him “Twelve.” [6:41,44]

[7] [20] “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”
And they said to him, “Seven.” [8:6,9]

[8] [21] And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

[Mark 8:22-26] ²² And they came to Bethsaida. [home town of Philip, Andrew, and Peter] [6:45] And some people brought to Jesus a blind man and begged him to touch him. ²³ And Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, [wanted to avoid a crowd - miraculous signs in Galilee had become a hindrance to effective ministry - Swindoll] [7:33] and when he had spit on his eyes [John 9:6] and laid his hands on him, [5:23] he asked him, “Do you see anything?” [there is no other place in the gospel where Jesus asked about the effectiveness of His healing power. He did so here to illustrate a point that will become clearer as the story unfolds.] ²⁵ Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ And He sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

[Mark 8:27-30] ²⁷ And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way He asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” [question of Jesus’ identity] [Matthew 16:13-16, Luke 9:8-20] ²⁸ And they told Him, “[1] John the Baptist; [Mark 6:14, Matthew 14:2, Luke 9:7] and [2] others say, Elijah; [Luke 9:8, Mark 9:11, Matthew 17:10, John 1:21] and others, [2] one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” [John 11:27] ³⁰ And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.

[Mark 8:31-32a] And He began to teach them [Matthew 16:21-28, Luke 9:22-27] that the Son of Man must [10:33, Luke 13:33] [1] suffer many things, and [Mark 9:30-9:31, Matthew 17:12, 22-23, Luke 24:7] [2] be rejected by the elders and the chief priests [Luke 17:25, 1 Peter 2:4, Mark 12:10] and the scribes [3] and be killed, [4] and after three days rise again. [Mark 10:34, Matthew 27:63, 12:40, John 2:19] ^{32a} And He said this plainly.

[Mark 8:32b-33] ^{32b} And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (Peter cannot wrap his arms around the reality of a Messiah who will suffer and die) ³³ But turning and seeing His disciples, [reflects that they all felt the way Peter did and heard his comments] he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! [Matthew 4:10] For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” [Romans 8:5, Philippians 3:19 (2:5-8), Colossians 3:2]

[Mark 8:34-38] And calling the crowd to Him with his disciples, He said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself [1 Timothy 2:12-13] and take up his cross and follow Me. [Matthew 10:38-39] ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, [Mark 8:34, Matthew 10:38-39] but whoever loses his life for My sake [Mark 10:29, 1 Corinthians 9:23, 2 Timothy 1:8, Philemon 1:13] and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? [Luke 12:20] ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? [Psalm 49:7-8] ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words ^a in this adulterous and sinful generation,^b of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father ^c with the holy angels.”^d

Romans 8:38 cross references:

^a [Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:12, 1:16, Hebrews 11:16, 1 John 2:28, Matthew 10:33]

^b [Isaiah 57:3, Matthew 12:39, James 4:4]

^c [Daniel 7:10, 7:13, Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:30, 25:31, 26:64, Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:16, Jude 1:14, Revelation 1:7, Deuteronomy 33:2]

^d [Acts 10:22, Revelation 14:10, Matthew 13:41, 16:27]

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