

# MARK

# CHAPTER 8:1-9:1

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# Chapter 8:1 -9:1

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# What is the message of Mark Chapter 8?

The eighth chapter is the center of Mark's gospel. Peter confesses Jesus' true nature as the Messiah and Jesus predicts that he will have to suffer and die but will rise again. Now we begin Jesus' eventual passion and resurrection.

# Mark 8:1-9

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2 “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” 4 His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” 5 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. 6 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 distribute to the people, and they did so. 7 They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. 8 The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

# Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

## 8:1-9

- Jesus has compassion and sympathy for the people. Some people did not bring food and others probably brought food but after three days their food was gone. Whatever losses we sustain, or hardships we go through, for Christ's sake, and in love to him, he will take care that they shall be made up to us one way or other. *They that seek the Lord, shall not long want any good thing, Ps. 34:10.*
- The disciples ask, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" The disciples looked upon the task of feeding the four thousand as impossible. Jesus used all the bread he had, seven loaves, and feed the four thousand.
- In God's house there is bread to spare. Those need not fear wanting that have Christ to live upon. Christ's time to act for the relief of his people, is, when things are brought to the last extremity; when they were ready to faint, Christ provided for them.

**How often do we as Christians forget about the miracles Jesus has previously performed in our lives and start questioning His ability?**

## Mark 8:10-13

10 he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. 11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. 12 He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." 13 Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

# The Pharisees Demand a Sign 8:10-13

- Jesus refused to gratify the Pharisees, who challenged him to give them a sign from heaven. They came on purpose to question him; not to propose questions to him, that they might learn of him, but to cross-question him, that they might expose Him as a phony to subject Him to a trial that would reveal His true character.
- Pharisees demanded a sign from heaven. Jesus had already given signs from heaven: At Jesus' baptism, the heaven opened, the descending of the dove, and the voice of God (Matthew 3:16,17). The feeding of the 5,000.
- Jesus denied their demand. He groaned, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, and the little influence that his preaching and miracles had had upon them.
- He was not welcome and went back to the ship and departed to the northeast coast of the lake.

**Do we as Believers disappoint Jesus with our unbelief, being privileged with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, not being as responsible to Him as we should be?**

## Mark 8:14-21

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. 15 “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” 16 They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” 17 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? 18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. 20 “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” 21 He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”



# The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod 8:14-21

- Jesus warns his disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod. This leaven was unbelief. The yeast of the Pharisees was their hypocritical, self-righteous traditionalism and the yeast of Herod was his spirit of imperial pride.
- Jesus strongly rebuked His disciples for their lack of spiritual understanding and disbelief of his power to supply them with what they needed. They remembered the facts, but they did not understand the significance of the miracles. The conclusion should have been obvious. Jesus was the prophet that Moses predicted would follow him and supersede him. He was the divine Messiah.
- It was extremely important that the disciples perceive who Jesus is. Without that perception they could not enter into a relationship with Him that was realistic and fulfilling. Jesus' use of questions forced them to interact with the implications of what they had heard and seen.

**Is our not understanding of the true intent and meaning of God's favors to us equivalent to our not remembering them? We need to ask ourselves "Am I without understanding? How is it that my heart is hardened?"**

## Mark 8: 22-26

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 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?" 24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." 25 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. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into[a] the village."

- Here is a blind man brought to Christ by his friends with faith that Jesus could cure him with a touch. On the other hand, the man himself was not quite sure Jesus could cure him.
- Christ leads this blind man. He did not bid his friends lead him, but he himself took him by the hand, and led him, to teach us to be as Job was, eyes to the blind, Job 29:15.
- The cure was gradual, which was not usual in Christ's miracles. He spat on his eyes and put his hand upon him. The use of saliva was a well-known Jewish remedy for affections of the eyes. Christ could have cured him, as he did others, with a word speaking, but thus he was pleased to assist his faith which was very weak and to help him against his unbelief. The second time Christ put his on the blind's man eyes, Christ anoints the eyes of those that are spiritually blind, Rev. 3:18.
- Sight is a common metaphor for understanding. The disciples should have seen the deaf man as a picture of themselves unable to comprehend what Jesus said. This blind man also represented them in their inability to understand what Jesus showed them.
- With this miracle Jesus fulfilled another aspect of messianic prophecy. The divine Messiah would open blind eyes (Isaiah 35:5-6). This conclusion should have been obvious: Jesus is the Messiah!

**How do we as Believers see Jesus through secular eyes and need to focus on seeing Jesus through spiritual eyes?**

# Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida 8:22-26

# Mark 8: 27-30

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” 28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” 30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

# Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ 8:27-30

- Jesus turns the question personal. “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answers that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is the anointed one. Jesus is the promised Savior from the line of David.
- Jesus’ questions often led to the new teaching. The question reflects the disciples having an inadequate view of Him and his desire to make sure they have an adequate understanding of Jesus as the Messiah.
- Jesus instructed the disciples to tell no one about Him for at least two reasons. First, such an announcement would have hindered His mission. Second, the disciples would not have been able to cope with the questions and opposition such an announcement would generate. They still held many popular misconceptions about Israel’s Messiah that Jesus needed to correct. Jesus proceeded to continue preparing them so they could represent Him effectively.

**How would you answer this question? Who is Jesus to you?**

# Mark 8: 31-9:1

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

9 And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

# Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

## 8:31-9:1

- Jesus teaches the disciples that the Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and after three days rise again
- Peter pulls Jesus aside and starts rebuking him. Peter is telling Jesus that he is wrong. Peter is arguing with Jesus. Peter is telling Jesus that he is wrong. Peter has just said that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is the Savior of the world. Jesus is our master. Jesus is not just a prophet. Jesus is the prophesied rescuer of the world. But now Peter is denying everything that he just confessed.
- Seeing his disciples seems to indicate that Peter is not the only one who is thinking this way. All of them believe Jesus is the Christ but what Jesus has just plainly taught cannot be correct. Jesus calls Peter, “the adversary” which is what the title “Satan” means. Jesus tells Peter, you need to get behind me. You are being a roadblock. You are being an adversary to Jesus. You need to stop being in front of Jesus and need to get behind Jesus. Jesus now proceeded to explain to His disciples that suffering would not only be His destiny but theirs too.
- What does it mean to be a disciple: deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. To follow Jesus is far more than just identifying yourself as a Christian. Being a disciple means renouncing self and journeying with Jesus even to death. Denying self is renouncing control and claim on your life. We will reject our desires, ambitions, personal goals, and submit to Jesus. It is the rejection of self-sufficiency. It is a denial of independence. Taking up the cross is the willingness to reject all for Christ. To be a disciple means denying self.

**Are you ready to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?**

# Question

How can what you have  
learned today be applied to  
your life?