



Spiritual Blindness

Text: Mark 8:1-26

Context: We are halfway through the Gospel of Mark and approaching the climax of the book. The climax is found in Peter's confession, "You are the Christ," (Mark 8:29). The disciples have been following Jesus, but they're about to discover that following the Servant King will redefine their life in ways they can't imagine and don't yet fully understand.

Read Mark 8:1-26

1) Jesus is the sign for this generation. (Mark 8:1-10)

Read and compare the miracle of feeding the 5,000 men (Mk 6:33-44) with feeding 4,000 (Mk 8:1-10). List the differences. Why does Jesus feed the 5,000 and the 4,000? What does this miracle teach you about Jesus?

2) Beware of misunderstanding Jesus! (Mark 8:11-21)

What is the "leaven (yeast)" of the Pharisees and Herod (8:11-14)? What is the point Jesus is making that the disciples are misunderstanding (8:17-21)? Why does understanding matter so much to Jesus?

3) Jesus has the power to make the blind see. (Mark 8:22-26)

Why do you think Jesus goes through the process of touching the man twice to fully heal him? How does the healing of the blind man reveal the theme of the stories in this passage: Feeding of 4,000 (8:1-10) and the warning about the "leaven (yeast)" of the Pharisees and Herod (11-21)?

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the cure for Spiritual Blindness. (Mark 8:18 & 25) In our story Jesus is doing miracles and teaching. The Pharisees blindly ask for more signs. The Disciples worry about having enough bread. It seems the Pharisees and the Disciples share something in common – spiritual blindness. Here comes the blind man that Jesus heals with two touches. Jesus displays his power to give sight to the blind. Coincidence? What do you think?

What causes spiritual blindness? (Hint review 8:11-21)

What do you have a hard time understanding about Jesus? How does it impact your relationship with Jesus?

How is Jesus the cure for spiritual blindness? (Hint review 8:22-26)

Next Week's Passage: Mark 8:27-33 (The Climax of Mark's Gospel)