

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 15, Mark 8:1-26

INTRODUCTION

Through the gospel of Mark, we are starting to see clear divisions in the people who've encountered Jesus. Mark 8:1-26 identifies four groups of people with differing worldviews on who and what the Messiah and His kingdom will be: the people that flock to Jesus in pursuit of His authoritative teaching, healing and great miracles; the Pharisees, (the powerful religious leaders who see Jesus as a threat to their tradition and authority;) the Herodians, (powerful political party of Herod;) and Jesus' disciples who lack understanding but are continuing in obedience and faithfulness. With each interaction, we see more clearly the heart of Jesus: His desire for understanding and repentance sparked by genuine faith.

PRAYER

READ

Ask two group members to read Mark 8:1-26

SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Mark 8 Jesus gives His disciples a second chance – a “do-over” in feeding the 4000. When or where have you been given a “do-over”? In what area of your life would you appreciate having a “do-over”?
2. Mark records Jesus feeding the multitudes twice. List similarities and differences between Jesus feeding the 5000 in Mark 6:32-44 and Jesus feeding the 4000 in Mark 8:1-10.
3. What do you think was Mark's purpose in recording both feedings of the multitudes? What do you think was Jesus' purpose in having His disciples participate in both feedings?

(ADVENT) PROPHECY OF JESUS

Children of Bethlehem Slain:
Jeremiah 31:15

Being called out of Egypt:
Hosea 11:1

Being anointed with the
Spirit: Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1

Being a Prophet liked to
Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15-18

(ADVENT) PROPHECY FULFILLED

Children of Bethlehem slain:
Matthew 2:16-18

Being called out of Egypt:
Matthew 2:15

Being anointed with the
Spirit: Matthew 3:16; John
3:34

Being a Prophet liked to
Moses: Acts 3:20-22; John
6:14

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

4. Re-read Mark 8:11-21. After another confrontation with the Pharisees, Jesus warns His disciples to “watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod” – an odd combination of people! What did the Pharisees and Herod have in common? What do you think Jesus meant by the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod?

5. How does the healing of the blind man (Mark 8:22-26) parallel Jesus’ rebuke of the disciples and their lack of seeing and understanding in the boat (Mark 8:17-19)?

6. The Pharisees demand a sign from Heaven because they don’t see Jesus as that direct sign (Mark 8:11-13). Have you ever demanded a sign from God? In what ways were you blinded to the truth that God Himself is far more sufficient than any sign? What sin, doubt, lie, circumstance was blocking you from seeing God clearly?

ADVENT READING WEEK 3 (Luke 2:8-20)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”^[a]

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

PRAY TOGETHER

NOTES

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Mark 8:27-29