

THE GOSPEL OF  
**MARK**®  
*servant* **KING**

**CHAPTER 8**  
**THE GREAT “I AM”**

Jesus is on the move again. He continues ministering to people in the Gentile regions. Jesus is teaching His disciples by example that all people, both Jew and Gentile, are born sinners and need a Savior. Once again, we will be blessed by our Lord's compassion and complete control over every situation. Also, we will be able to relate to the disciples' lack of understanding and their forgetfulness as they walk with Him and experience the ways our Lord works. Chapter 8 contains a pivotal moment. Up to this point in Mark, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God and His identity as the Messiah. Now, Jesus will be taking the disciples deeper into the knowledge and realization as to why He came to earth.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*And He said to them, “But who do you say that I Am? And Peter answered and said “You are the Christ.”* **Mark 8:29**

**Read through Mark 8.** Ask God to open your eyes, heart and mind to give you a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and how He is teaching you this week. Please share what He reveals to you.

**FEEDING THE 4000**

1. Jesus was teaching and ministering in a desolate place in Gentile territory. There were multitudes of non-Jews present with Him, and Jesus became concerned for them. What was His concern? How long had they been there with Jesus listening to His Words? How did He feel about these people (vv.1-3)?

## **PERSONAL**

Have you ever thought that Jesus was not concerned about your everyday needs and concerns? How do these verses bring encouragement to you (vv.1-2)? (Also see Matt. 6:33-34.)

2. How did the disciples see this as an impossible problem (v.4)? What recent miracle had they already forgotten about? (See Mark 6:32-44.) How are we just like the disciples?
  
3. What was on hand to provide for the huge crowd of hungry people? Describe the orderly distribution of food and what Jesus did before passing out the bread and fish (vv.5-7).
  
4. How many people were filled, and how many baskets of leftover fragments were left?

## **CHALLENGE**

Jesus works in ways we cannot expect. How are you encouraged that Jesus can and will use the little we bring to Him by multiplying it?

## DIG DEEPER

Compare the feeding of the 5,000 in all four gospels (see chart below) to the feeding of the 4,000 in Mark 8 and Matthew 15 (see verses below in chart). What similarities do you see? How do you see differences in these two multitude feedings?

| FEEDING THE 5,000 | FEEDING THE 4,000 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Matthew 14:13-21  | Matthew 15:32-38  |
| Mark 6:32-44      | Mark 8:1-10       |
| Luke 9:11-17      |                   |
| John 6:1-4        |                   |

SIMILARITIES:

DIFFERENCES:

### THE PHARISEES SEEK A SIGN (Mark 8:11-12)

5. Jesus immediately leaves that area in a boat to go to the region of Dalmanutha. After being with the receptive multitudes for three days teaching and feeding them, Jesus is met by the disputing Pharisees. What were they seeking from Jesus? What was their motive in testing Him (v.11)? (Also see Matt. 16:1; Mark 3:6)

Dalmanutha is a place on the west of the Sea of Galilee, mentioned only in Mark 8:10. In the parallel passage it is said that Christ came "into the borders of Magdala" (Matthew 15:39). It is plain, then, that Dalmanutha was near Magdala, which was probably the Greek name of one of the many Migdols (i.e., watch-towers) on the western side of the lake of Gennesaret. It has been identified in the ruins of a village about a mile from Magdala, in the little open valley of 'Ain-el-Barideh, "the cold fountain," called el-Mejdel, possibly the "Migdal-el" of Joshua 19:38 (Matthew George Easton).

6. What was Jesus's heartfelt response to these religious Leaders? What did He say to them (v.12)?

7. These Pharisees and Sadducees had all the words of the prophets and the miracles Jesus was doing; yet, they were demanding more. What additional information does Matthew give us in Jesus's response to these men (Matthew 16:1-4)? What does He once again call them? What does the sign of Jonah refer to (See Matthew 12:38-40)?

“This time they tempted Him to prove His divine authority by giving them a sign from heaven. They did not want an earthly miracle, such as the healing of a sick person. They wanted Him to do something spectacular, like bring fire from heaven or bread from heaven (John 6:30-31). This would prove He was indeed sent from God.” *Warren Wiersbe*

“They demanded this sign, *tempting him*; not in hopes that he would give it them, [but] that they might imagine themselves to have a pretense for their infidelity” *M. Henry*

### **JESUS WARNS THE DISCIPLES (Mark 8:13-21)**

8. Jesus needed to teach the disciples an important Spiritual lesson. What warning did He give to them (vv.14-15)? What is the leaven of the Pharisees? (See Luke 12:1; review Mark 7:6-8)

“The Bible uses leaven as a picture of false doctrine (Galatians 5:1-9), unjudged sin in the church (1 Corinthians 5), and hypocrisy (Luke 12:1). In this context, Jesus warned them about the teaching (false doctrine) of the Pharisees and the followers of Herod.” *Warren Wiersbe*

The use of leaven was strictly forbidden in all offerings made to the Lord by fire (Leviticus 2:11; 7:12; 8:2; Numbers 6:15). Its secretly penetrating and diffusive power is referred to in 1 Corinthians 5:6. In this respect it is used to illustrate the growth of the kingdom of heaven both in the individual heart and in the world (Matthew 13:33). It is a figure also of corruptness and of perverseness of heart and life (Matthew 16:6, 11; Mark 8:15; 1 Corinthians 5:7, 8) (Matthew George Easton).

9. As the disciples reasoned among themselves, what were they focused on? What six questions did Jesus ask them to move their thinking from merely the physical needs to the more important Spiritual (vv.16-18)?
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
  - 5)

10. How did Jesus remind them of how He worked in the past? What was His final question to them at this time? Sometimes we can get so preoccupied with the temporary problems of life that we forget to bring Jesus into the problem. How have you been helped by looking at your past and remembering how Jesus has always been there for you?

### **A BLIND MAN IS HEALED (Mark 8:22-26)**

11. Jesus and the disciples, being constantly on the move, land in Bethsaida where a blind man is presented to Jesus for healing. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the blind man by the \_\_\_\_\_ and led him \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. Consider that the man could not see Jesus, but could hear Him and feel His touch.
12. Why did Jesus touch this man a second time? This man was healed in two stages, what lessons can we draw from the way Jesus healed this man's eyesight (vv.22-26)?

### **PERSONAL**

Jesus was doing something very unexpected here in this healing. It is the only miracle done in two parts. Jesus touched the man twice and told him to look up before healing took place. Sometimes Spiritual blindness is removed in stages. Jesus has to touch a person more than once or even twice. Who do you need to continue to bring to Jesus to have His touch bring spiritual sight given or restored? What personal touch do you need from Jesus for something you're struggling with?

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

After Jesus' first action, the man's vision was only partially restored. This is the only miracle of Jesus in which healing did not occur immediately and completely. Jesus may have done it this way to illustrate the disciples' gradual enlightenment.

Jesus took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi about 25 miles north from where they were at in Bethsaida. This was an especially pagan city known for its worship of Greek god's and its temples devoted to the ancient god Pan. This town where many gods were worshiped was a fitting place for Jesus to ask the disciples to recognize Him as the Son of God.

### **A PIVOTAL MOMENT (Mark 8:27-33)**

13. Jesus death was about six months away and He needed to teach them truth that they were not ready to receive. As they walked along what question did Jesus ask all His followers? According to the disciples who did people say Jesus was (vv.27-28)? (Also see Luke 9:18)
14. People say and think a lot of things about who Jesus is, Jesus here wanted to make sure His disciples knew exactly who He is. What did He specifically ask them? Who did Peter say that Jesus was (v.29)? What does Jesus say to Nicodemus in John 3:3 that helps us understand Peter's confession?

### **PERSONAL**

Who is Jesus to you? Have you given your life to Him? Is He your Lord and Savior? If you have not, you can pray right now and admit to the Lord Jesus Christ that you realize that you are a sinner in need of a Savior. Ask Him to forgive you of all of your sins and to come into your life as Your Lord. Then you, like Peter, can say "You are the Christ." See John 14:6; Philippians 2:10. If you have committed your life to Jesus ,share it with your group.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Jesus is His name,  
Christ is His title  
and it means the  
anointed one, the  
promised  
Messiah.  
J. Vernon McGee

15. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone about Him? What did Jesus announce openly to His disciples? What did He call Himself (vv.30-31)?

The name Son of Man is Jesus most common title for Himself. It comes from Daniel 7:13, where the Son of Man is a heavenly figure who, in the end times, has authority and power. The name refers to Jesus as the Messiah, the representative person, the human agent of God who is vindicated by God. In this passage, Son of Man is linked closely to Peters confession of Jesus as the Christ and confirms messianic significance.

16. The disciples were confused. They did not understand God's will. Jesus was not going to be a conquering King at this time but a suffering servant. Read Isaiah 53 and write how the prophet describes Jesus.
  
17. Peter was the one who was the spokesmen for the disciples, what was his mind set on? What did he do? Then how did Jesus respond (v.32)?
  
18. Peter did not understand the significance of Jesus's words at the time. Without realizing, he was tempting Jesus from His mission on earth, which is the cross. What was the difference between Satan's attempts to keep Jesus from going to the cross and the disciples' motives (v.33)? (Also see Matt. 4:1-11)

### **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS**

19. Jesus now gathers the crowd with the disciples so He can teach them lessons on the cross and the cost of what it means to be a true disciple. What three conditions does Jesus lay out for His followers (v.34)? (Also see Luke 9:23-26.)
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  
20. What does Jesus mean in His words "...whoever desires to save his life will lose it (v.35)." (Also see Luke 9:12; John12:24-26)
  
21. How does one lose his life for the sake of the gospel? How valuable is the soul of a man (vv.35-37)?

22. What warning does Jesus give us in Mark 8:38? How does this convict you? Have you ever been ashamed of Jesus?

23. What is the reward for standing boldly for Jesus in this adulterous and sinful generation? Is it worth it to you? Look up the following verses: Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 4:16; 1 John 2:28; Hebrews 11:16; Psalm 25:1-3

### **DWELL ON THIS**

Is there any reward for the person who is a true disciple? Yes, there is! He becomes more like Christ and one day shares in His glory. Satan promises you glory, but in the end you receive suffering. God promises you suffering, but in the end that suffering is transformed into glory. If we acknowledge Christ and live for Him, He will one day acknowledge us and share His glory (Warren Wiersbe).

All of it will be worth it in the end, when we hear Him say: “Well done good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23).



