

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

**LESSON 8**

**BELIEF AND UNBELIEF 5:1-8:30**

Jesus' Withdrawal and Teaching 7:24-8:26

Peter's Confession 8:27-30

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

*Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.*

Mark 7:24 – 8:30 NIV	Illumination
<p><b><i>The Faith of a Syrophenician Woman</i></b></p> <p><sup>24</sup>Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup>In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." <sup>28</sup>"Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. The Healing of a Deaf and Mute Man</p> <p><b>Healing of the Deaf Man</b></p> <p><sup>31</sup>Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. <sup>33</sup>After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup>He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup>At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup>Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup>People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."</p> <p><b>Mark 8</b></p> <p><b><i>Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand</i></b></p> <p><sup>1</sup>During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup>"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance." <sup>4</sup>His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" <sup>5</sup>"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. <sup>6</sup>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 set before the people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup>They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup>The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup>About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away,</p> <p><b><i>The Yeast of the Pharisees and Herod</i></b></p> <p><sup>10</sup>he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. <sup>12</sup>He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup>Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.</p> <p><sup>14</sup>The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup>"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." <sup>16</sup>They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup>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? <sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? <sup>19</sup>When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied. <sup>20</sup>"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." <sup>21</sup>He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Region of Tyre and Sidon</b> - is not part of Israel. They were Gentile cities.</li> <li>❖ <b>Dogs</b> – the Greek word, <i>kunarion</i> in verses 24-30 refer to little dogs, a household pet.</li> <li>❖ <b>Leaven</b> – “this phrase was a common Jewish metaphor for an invisible pervasive influence.” Nelson Bible It was also used as a symbol for sin.</li> <li>❖ <b>Herod</b> – in verse 15 this phrase probably referred to the Herodians. A group of Jews who supported the ruling family of Herod. Many were also Sadducees who were Jewish leaders.</li> </ul>

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**Mark 7:24 – 8:30 NIV**

**Illumination**

***The Healing of a Blind Man at Bethsaida***

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

***Peter's Confession of Christ***

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

**Observations**

- ❖ In verses 7:24 – 30 Jesus and the disciples traveled beyond the borders of Israel to the Gentile cities, Tyre and Sidon.
  - There are three reasons why He left Israel.
    - A place for rest.
    - Wanted to withdraw from the scene and confrontations with the Pharisees.
    - Put into practice His teaching that all food are clean and to break down the barriers that the gospel message was only for the Jews. As Jesus taught in our previous lesson it is not what enters the body that makes a person to sin. Sin begins from the inside – what is in your heart (mind, attitude, the sum of who we are as a person)
  - Jesus may have found rest from His enemies, but not from His reputation.
  - A Gentile woman begged for healing for her daughter. She even fell at His feet. Jesus allowed a woman and a Gentile to touch Him which made Him unclean according to tradition.
  - Some say that Jesus insulted the woman in verse 27. But He is simply stating a fact.
    - Jesus came first to His own, the Jews.
    - However there is enough left over for the Gentiles.
  - The woman was not insulted. She was persistent in her request for healing for her daughter.
  - The woman had enough faith to believe that the crumbs from the tables were enough to heal her daughter.
  - Her faith was persistent in expressing her need to Jesus.
  - Jesus healed the woman's daughter. Matthew 15:28 records that Jesus acknowledged her faith.
- ❖ Jesus continued His ministry to the Gentiles in verses 31-37.
  - Jesus took the long way back to Israel. It is estimated that the journey took 8 months.
  - Jesus traveled this route home so that He would be able to bring the gospel message to those who would not have ordinarily been able to hear it.
  - Jesus was brought a deaf-mute man to heal. The people begged for healing. This was an indication that they thought the man's condition was hopeless. Due to this physical impairment the man had also suffered socially. During these times intelligence was equated with your ability to speak.
    - This healing is only recorded in Mark.
  - Jesus took the man away from the crowd to heal him through communication by touch, taste and the spoken word.
    - Jesus was sensitive to the man's condition. He did not want to make the man's healing a public spectacle.
  - Jesus commanded the man and those with him not to tell how he was healed. But they could not keep it to themselves.
    - Now the Gentiles are astonished by the power and compassion of Jesus.

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**Observations, continued**

- ❖ In verses 8:1-9 Jesus feed another large group of people – 4,000.
  - Some scholars have tried to say that this is the same feeding as the 5,000 (Mark 6:30-44), but retold. However when you examine the two miracles we can easily see that they are totally different.

<b>Difference</b>	<b>Feeding of the 5,000</b>	<b>Feeding of the 4, 000</b>
<i>Crowd</i>	Jews	Gentiles and some Jews
<i>Need</i>	Jesus was moved with compassion toward the crowd because they were without leadership. It was not because they were hungry.	Jesus was moved with compassion toward the crowd because they had listened to Him for 3 days without eating.
<i>Challenge</i>	The disciples wanted to send the people away so that they could feed themselves. But Jesus challenged the disciples to feed them.	Jesus called the disciples and stated the need of the people. The disciples did not demand that the people satisfy their own need.
<i>Resources</i>	Five loaves and 2 fishes	Seven loaves and a few fishes
<i>Quantity of Leftovers</i>	Twelve baskets full	Seven baskets full
<i>Number of People</i>	5,000 not including women and children	4,000 – no indication of women and children

- Both miracles demonstrated how God can work with our meager resources to do ministry.
- Both miracles also showed the disciples and the people the power of Jesus the Christ.
- In these miracles Jesus had taken care of the spiritual and physical needs of the Jews and Gentiles. The crumbs for the tables are more than enough to supply the needs of the Gentiles.
- ❖ Jesus returned to Israel in verse 8:10. Unfortunately the exact location is not known today.
- ❖ In verses 10-12 as soon as Jesus returned the Pharisees resumed their dispute with Him. They wanted to discredit and destroy Him.
  - The Pharisees probably heard of Jesus ministry to the Gentiles. They now wanted Jesus to give them a sign from heaven. But it was a test.
    - Jesus had previously given them signs in the form of healings and miracles but they had credited it to the devil. 3:22
    - They want Jesus to prove who He claimed He was by a sign from heaven. They seemed to be asking for a bigger sign than the signs that Jesus had given.
    - They were applying the test of a prophet as outlined in Deut. 13:1-3 and 18:18-22. They probably hoped that he could not provide a sign on demand.
  - Jesus refused to give the Pharisees a sign for several reasons:
    - A sign would not cause them to believe. He had already given them signs. As Matthew 16:5-12 recorded nothing said or done by Jesus would cause the Pharisees to believe. They were opposed to Jesus.
    - The Pharisees were spiritually blind and did not want to see.

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**Observations, continued**

- Jesus performed miracles and healing as part of spreading the gospel. They were not done on demand to prove who He was.
- Jesus knew the request was a test. It was a test/temptation to prove Himself. It was the same type of temptation Jesus encounter with satan in the wilderness (1:12-13; Matt. 1:1-11)
- As Matthew recorded the only future sign He would give the Pharisees was the sign of Jonah – His death and resurrection.
- Jesus sighed deeply within His spirit because He realized that the Pharisees were spiritually blind. They refused to see therefore given the time He could not engage them any longer.
- This event marked the end of Jesus public ministry in Galilee.
- ❖ Jesus confronted His disciples with their lack of spiritual understanding in verses 8:14- 21. When we examine the teachings of Jesus and the miracles and healing of Jesus we see that Jesus did not separate the spiritual from the physical. He provides for all our needs. Where as we separate the physical needs from the spiritual. Therefore in these verses Jesus was referring to spiritual/physical and the disciples were referring to physical.
  - Jesus left the Pharisees and went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee by boat. Once again Jesus taught on a boat.
  - The disciples were concerned about their physical needs. They had only brought one loaf of bread with them.
  - As the disciples worried about their physical needs, Jesus addressed their spiritual needs. He warned them about the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.
    - Since the disciples' focus was on physical bread they accepted the literal meaning of leaven (yeast for bread).
    - Jesus was using the word leaven as a symbol for evil. As with yeast it takes only a little for it to spread.
    - Jesus was warning the disciples to watch out for the “contaminating” evil of the religious leaders.
  - Jesus rebuked the disciples out for their lack of understanding by asking them a series of question.
    - “Why are you talking about having no bread?”
      - Why are you talking about your physical needs when your souls and the souls of others are at stake?
    - “Do you still not see or understand?”
      - Do you not see or understand that I as the Son of God can supply all your needs.
    - “Are your hearts hardened?”
      - Have I not mentored you all these days and your heart are still hardened to my teaching? Is it impossible for you understand or you just don't want to?
    - “Do you have eyes but fail to see and ears but fail to hear?”
      - Why do you not see and hear the spiritual truths that I have lived and presented?
    - “Don't you remember?”
      - Even if you can't see and hear the spiritual truths at least remember the signs.
      - Can't you even remember what I have done for you and others?
  - Jesus quizzed the disciples on the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 to help them to remember. The disciples passed the quiz.
  - Jesus ends this event with one final question, “Do you still not understand?”
    - After the disciples passed the quiz Jesus wanted to know if they finally understood. Did they now understand that Jesus could provide for all their needs.

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**Observations, continued**

- ❖ In verses 8:22-26 Jesus restored sight to a blind man when they arrived at Bethsaida.
  - Once again when Jesus entered a town the people brought a person to him for healing. They begged because they thought there was no help for the blind man.
  - This healing is only recorded in Mark.
  - Don't forget that Jesus had dealt with the disciples' blindness on the boat. Now He is being asked to heal a blind man.
  - Once again Jesus took the man away from the crowd to heal him through communication by touch, taste and the spoken word.
    - Jesus was sensitive to the man's condition. He did not want to make the man's healing a public spectacle.
  - This healing is different from other healings. It is not immediately. It happens in two-parts. This healing is a type of parable.
    - The disciples believed Jesus to be the Messiah before He was crucified. But it was not until after the crucifixion and resurrection that they came to a full understanding of His work as the Messiah.
    - We may first accept Jesus as Savior and later come to an understanding of Him as Lord.
- ❖ The first eight chapters of Mark had prepared the disciples to answer the questions that Jesus asked in 8:27-30. The final eight chapters point to Jesus' death
  - As Jesus and His disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, a primarily Greek city Jesus asked important questions. These questions were crucial to their spiritual understanding.
  - Jesus asked in the first question – "Who do people say that I am?"
    - He wanted to know if the disciples understood what the people were saying.
    - The disciples were able to repeat what they had heard. 6:14-16
    - The people did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.
  - Jesus asked the second question – "But who do you say that I am?"
    - Peter answered the question – "You are the Messiah/Christ".
    - Peter was probably speaking as the spokesperson for the disciples.
    - They believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
    - But as we read further in Mark we will see that they do not fully understand what it is they believe.
    - From this point forward Jesus will teach the disciples to understand the work of the Messiah. The people, the religious leaders and the disciples had an incorrect understanding of the mission/work of the Messiah.

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Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exploration**

Consider the Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. How does Jesus put into practice what He taught the disciples in the previous lesson in verses, 7:1-23?
2. The gentile woman in verses 7:24-30 was persistent in her faith of Jesus. Are you? Why or why not?
3. How far are you willingly to travel to do ministry?
4. When should we bring our concerns and needs to Jesus?
5. What should we do when we are asked to prove the existence of God or the ministry of Jesus the Christ?
6. Are there people who are spiritually blind and will never see? Why or why not?
7. List the other occasions that Jesus had taught on a boat.
8. Which do you worry about the most your physical needs or spiritual needs? Why? Which does the Lord provides for?
9. How would explain the healing of the blind man? What is your understanding of this type of parable?
10. Who is Jesus to you?

**Thought For The Week:** Seek ye first the kingdom of God and everything else will be given to you.

