



M A R K

The Gift of God





Eyes That See

Mark 8:1-30



- Main Characters in *Mark*

- Jesus

- *The Crowd*

- The Pharisees / Scribes

- The Disciples

- An individual (or two)

Compare /
Contrast

Mark 8:1-30



1. Feeding the Famished Crowd
2. Rejecting the Fighting Pharisees
3. Rebuking the Dull Disciples
4. Healing the Blind Man
5. Answering The Big Question



Feeding the Famished Crowd

- In those days
 - During His gentile mission (7:24), most likely within the Decapolis region (7:31)
- Again a large crowd
 - Perhaps because of the healing of the deaf man (7:36; see 1:40-45; 3:8-9)

The 5000



The 4000

Jews

Mostly Gentiles

Compassion: Spiritual Compassion: Physical

Disciples Concerned Jesus Concerned

Direct Command Indirect Statement

“Too Costly”

“Too Desolate”

“How many loaves do you have?”

The 5000



The 4000

5 Loaves

7 Loaves

Sit in Companies

Sit

Much Grass

On Ground

Jesus Gives Thanks

Jesus Breaks and Disciples Serve

The 5000



1 Blessing

12 Small Baskets

Disciples Into Boat

He Sent Crowd Away

The 4000

2 Blessings

7 Large Baskets

He Sent Crowd Away

Jesus & Disciples Into Boat



Rejecting the Fighting Pharisees

- Eph. 4:17-19
 - Darkness / exclusion <- ignorance <- hardness of heart (18)
 - Sensuality replaces truth (light) (19)
 - Comes from the heart (Mark 7:21-22)
- Rom. 1:18-32 - Rejection of truth of God brings judgment from God



Rejecting the Fighting Pharisees

- The Pharisees press Jesus for a sign (11)
 - From heaven – grand celestial proof
 - Beyond question (see 3:1-6, 22)
 - Like 1 Kings 18:38; Joel 2:30-31; etc.
 - Testing Him – either failure or refusal would discredit Him



Rejecting the Fighting Pharisees

- Jesus sighs – deep groan of distress
- Jesus replies
 - “Why...?” – “On what grounds...?”
 - “If a sign shall be given...” – conditional part of an oath, but left unfinished
- Jesus flies – back in the boat



Rejecting the Fighting Pharisees

- The Pharisees rejected what they had already seen but wanted more
 - They were *hard soil* (4:4, 15)
 - No *eyes to see* or *ears to hear* (4:11-12)
 - No more given (4:25)
 - (See John 12:36-43)



Rebuking the Dull Disciples

- He ordered them: Watch out! Beware! (15)
 - Leaven – *pervasive, invisible influence*
 - Of the Pharisees – teachings / ‘truth’ (Matt. 16:12)
 - Of Herod – secularism / superstition (Mark 6:14-29)



Rebuking the Dull Disciples

- The disciples didn't get it (16)
- “Why are you talking about bread?!” (17)
 - *See* – perceive with the mind (not eyes)
 - *Understand* – connect the dots (6:52)
 - *Hardened* – callous, insensitive (6:52)



Rebuking the Dull Disciples

- The disciples didn't get it (16)
 - *Eyes and ears* (see 4:12; Isa. 6:8-10)
 - *Remember* – exercise the memory (18)
 - “Do you not yet *understand*?” (21)
 - Spiritually lazy – content on the surface level, not wanting to go deeper



Healing the Blind Man

- Some questions:
 - Why include this story *here*?
 - Why does Jesus ask him if he sees? (23)
 - Why does it take two attempts? (25)



Healing the Blind Man

- Apparently not born blind
 - He knew what men and trees looked like
 - Mark says he was *restored* (25)
- Jesus brought him out of the village (23)
 - Mark emphasizes this repeatedly
 - To avoid it being a public spectacle



Healing the Blind Man

- If the point was simply to heal the man, Jesus could have done that instantly
- Maybe drawing out the man's faith
- Jesus also used it as an illustration of/for the disciples

Healing the Blind Man



- Four degrees of sight (22-25):
 1. He was blind: could not see at all
 2. He looked up: tentatively, not clearly
 3. He looked intently: determined effort
 4. He began to see clearly: concentrated focus

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Answering The Big Question

- On their way toward Caesarea Philippi
- “Who do people say that I am?”
 - John, Elijah, one of the prophets (28)
 - John, Elijah, one of the prophets (6:14-16)



Answering The Big Question

- “But who do you say that I am?”
 - Did they have eyes to see and ears to hear?
 - Where they able to connect the dots?
 - Where they looking intently and remembering?



D. Edmond Hiebert

“His method had been to impress upon them the truth concerning Himself through what they heard and saw. He had left them to arrive at the truth concerning Him through personal reflection. But now the time had come to lead them to a positive declaration of faith.”



Answering The Big Question

- Peter: “You are the Christ.”
 - *The Messiah: the Anointed One*
- He warned them to tell no one about Him
 - The people had wrong expectations
 - E.g. – Peter (8:31-33), the crowd (John 6:15), the disciples (Acts 1:6)

So What?



- We must believe that Jesus is the Christ!
- John 20:30-31
- You cannot save yourself!
- Jesus died for your sin
- You can be *born anew*



So What?

- Remember, reflect, meditate on what God has done
 - In Scripture; in our own & others' lives
 - *Look intently; connect the dots*
 - If we don't *get it*, we'll get it again
- God rewards those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6)