

Missing the Sign for the Wonders

Pastor Nathan Carroll

Mark 8:1-21

SCENE I – A Parallel Miracle

Mark 8:1-10 NIV

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.

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 distribute to the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

The primary difference between this feeding miracle and the feeding of the 5,000 in Mark 6 was the fact that the crowd was made up of _____.

The story, punctuated by the specific language that Mark uses, follows this path:

1. The people _____ in being with Jesus. (v2)
2. Jesus has _____ on them. (v2)
3. Jesus _____ them. (v8)
4. Jesus _____ them. (v9)

SCENE II – The Point of No Return

Mark 8:11-13 NIV

The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

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1. The Pharisees are distinguishing _____ from _____. (Mark 3:22)
2. They were asking Jesus to verify or give proof of his _____. (v11)
3. Jesus’ response is one of _____ and _____. (v12)
4. A significant literal and metaphoric _____ occurs. (v13)

SCENE III – Missing One Another

Mark 8:14-21 NIV

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

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? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

“Twelve,” they replied.

“And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven.”

He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

_____ was a term with negative connotations being used to represent a rising and consuming _____.

This was a danger that was not only left on the shore with the Pharisees, but apparently came onto the _____ with Jesus.

Jesus’ treatment of the disciples, in contrast to the Pharisees, highlights that there is a fine line between seeing _____ perceiving and seeing _____ perceiving.

The fine line is *FAITH* (Hebrews 11:1). It is the lynchpin to knowing Jesus for who he truly is.

A CLIFFHANGER ENDING

Matthew’s parallel account of the Pharisees demanding a sign of Jesus leaves us a clue to a sign that was to come... (Matthew 16:4, Matthew 12:38-40)

...and to a persistent hardness of heart that would remain. (Matthew 28:12-15)

1 Corinthians 1:21-23 NIV

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles...