

The Book of Mark, Transformed, Week 7

Review:

- The Gospels reveal the Person of Jesus, the Gospel of Jesus, and the Methods of Jesus (SCMD).
 - It takes faith to be a disciple. (Mark 6)
 - Spiritual maturity is to have a heart for God and others and to be committed to His mission.
 - A few weeks ago, we looked at Jesus feeding of the 5,000 (Jews).
 - Chapter 8 begins with Jesus feeding Gentiles in a defiled area—the region of the Decapolis (the Ten Cities), Greeks and Romans.
 - **Mark 7:31** Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.
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1. Jesus is leading His Jewish disciples towards their mission.

- He is teaching them what faith looks like.
- They are serving, baptizing, be sent out to preach, and debriefing with Christ.
- He's training them for ministry in the whole world (the Decapolis).
- The mission *is* to reach the whole world with the message of the Gospel. (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
- This upset the Jews. The Messiah was supposed to be for the Jews only and to destroy everyone else—according to their perspective.

Mark 8:1–10 ¹During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ²“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” ⁴His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” ⁵“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. ⁶He 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. ⁷They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. ⁸The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, ¹⁰he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

Genesis 22:15–18 ¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

2. Notice Jesus' warning about the “yeast of the Pharisees.”

Mark 8:11–21 ¹¹The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. ¹²He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” ¹³Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. ¹⁴The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵**“Be careful,” Jesus warned them.** “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.” ¹⁶They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.” ¹⁷Aware 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? ¹⁸Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. ²⁰“And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.” ²¹He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

- **The yeast of the Pharisees is faithlessness no matter what.**
 - They would not accept Jesus as their King no matter what He did.
 - Yeast is aggressive—it attacks. It works its way into the whole batch of dough.
 - The yeast of the Pharisees is the yeast of unbelief no matter the evidence.
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Matthew 16:1–4 ¹The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. ²He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ ³and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.

- **The yeast of unbelief was affecting the disciples.**
 - Jesus had done His second miracle concerning supplying food.
 - They are with the Bread of Heaven and are concerned about earthly food.
 - They are with the One who can create enough from nothing, and they don’t ask Him.
 - Jesus tells them to beware of the yeast of unbelief.
 - **Be on guard against unbelief.**
 - Fight for your faith! Contending for it, protect it, build it!
 - We do this together.
 - **Jude 3, Jude 20-22, Colossians 2:6-7**
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3. Notice Mark inserts the great confession here:

- “You are the Christ.”
- Matthew includes the importance of the church to the discussion.
- The church is God’s idea; it has a purpose.
- The gates of Hell cannot conquer it.

Mark 8:27–30 ²⁷Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Matthew 16:17–20 ¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

1. What in the sermon grabbed your attention?
 - a. Considering what you heard, what is your next step?

*As you read/listen to: **Mark 8:27-9:13**, be thinking about:*

2. What is Jesus doing? What did His followers experience?
3. What would it be like to be there? What do you think you would experience?
4. How would you describe your personal encounters with Jesus? What questions do you want to ask Jesus?
5. How will what you are discovering about Jesus and yourself help you this week?

The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

June 24-June 30: **Mark 8:27-9:13**

July 1-July 7: **Mark 9:14-50**

July 8-July 14: **Mark 10:1-52**