

THICKHEADED OR HARD OF HEARING? *(Mark 8:1-21)*

Faith is born of understanding and insight, not ignorance. We run the danger of getting so caught up in our little world of self-promotion and self-gratification that we are blind and deaf to God. Repetition is a good teacher and sometimes you and I need a dozen lessons. We're in good company—so did the disciples.

I. WE NEED TO REMEMBER JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE (vv. 1-10)

1. Here was the key question: “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?”
 - We often only see the problems, but Jesus has the plan.
2. The literal question is, “Who is powerful enough to completely satisfy these needs?”
 - Jesus wanted them to realize He is the Bread of Life.
3. And notice Jesus’ heart: “I have compassion.”
 - Jesus cares deeply for our needs including our physical needs.
 - But the greatest need and the greatest problem is spiritual.
4. Jesus is the true source of life that can fully satisfy (v. 8).
 - He gives to all who will take the Bread of Life.

II. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO REJECT THE GRACE OF GOD (vv. 11-13)

1. Jesus crossed back over the lake and was confronted by the Pharisees.
 - Despite Jesus’ numerous public miracles and teachings giving evidence He was the Messiah, they refused to acknowledge His actions as anything but demonic.
2. Mark says they “came” to argue.
3. They were demanding a sign – proof that God was at work in Jesus.
 - He had already done that numerous times over. They simply refused to believe in Him.
 - They refused to trust in Jesus by faith and rejected the grace of God that was offered to them.
4. Notice Jesus “sighed deeply.”
 - Jesus was in anguish that they refused to see and hear the evidence they already had.
 - *Professor James Edward says, “Faith that depends on proof is not faith, but only veiled doubt.”*

III. WE NEED TO REALIZE PROXIMITY DOES NOT EQUAL PRACTICE (vv. 14-21)

1. Some incredible things had just happened in the events of this passage.
 - And what were the disciples worried about? Bread ... food!
2. Jesus then hit them with seven penetrating questions. And the theme of all seven questions was “Don’t you get it!?!?”
 - Proximity must grow into understanding and understanding grow into faith.

We must put into practice what we believe about Jesus. One of the hindrances to doing this is getting stuck in our own world, not paying attention. Look at Jesus’ final question: Do you still not understand? Are you paying attention? Just listen to His voice, trust Him and act on it!