

Kingdom Rising

“Confronting and Confused”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: When have you experienced a bomb threat or something similar?

KEY THOUGHT: ***Don’t miss spiritual landmines because of temporal worries***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 8:1-13

1. What similarities do you see between the feeding of the 5000 in chapter 6 and the feeding of the 4000 in chapter 8? What differences to you see?
2. What is surprising about the disciples’ response to Jesus in Mark 8:4?
3. What indicates the Pharisees’ motives are to challenge Jesus, rather than learn from Him?

Read Mark 8:14-21

4. What did Jesus mean by His warning in verse 15? What did the disciples think He meant?
5. What is the significance of Jesus’ cascade of questions to the disciples?
6. How does Jesus’ references to feeding the crowds connect to the disciples’ discussion of having no bread in verse 16?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Exodus 17:6-7 and Psalm 95:8-11

1. Briefly describe the scene in Exodus 17. What was the sin of the people?
2. Judging from Psalm 95:11, what will be the outcome for the Pharisees in Mark 8:11?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. Why is it so easy to become preoccupied with temporal worries and miss spiritual landmines?
2. How do people today demand that God meet their expectations (leaven of the Pharisees)?
3. How are even Christians guilty of the leaven of Herod (control, duplicity, sensuality)?
4. What does it look like to beware or steer clear of these damaging influences? What steps do you need to take?

PRAY...

that we use spiritual strategies to successfully avoid spiritual landmines.