

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH
Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

STUCK IN YOUR WORLD OR STUCK ON JESUS

*Unless we are seeing everything in the light of Jesus' coming
we remain deaf, blind and bound to our little, dying worlds.*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 8:1-21

6 January A.D. 2013

Mark 8:1-10 Many unstuck Gentiles are finding satisfaction in Jesus' compassion: outsiders are seeing and hearing!

At about this same time he again found himself with a hungry crowd on his hands. He called his disciples together and said, "This crowd is breaking my heart. They have stuck with me for three days, and now they have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they'll faint along the way—some of them have come a long distance." *The Message*

8:1 Jesus called his disciples...

8.2 they have remained with me now three days

8:3 Where will anyone be able to find enough bread here in this desolate place to satisfy these people?

The focus in this second feeding (see Mark 6:34ff.) is on Jesus: his initiative, his compassion and care...

Likely a mixed crowd of Jews with some Gentiles have gathered from the West, North & from the Decapolis (ten Greek/Roman cities). Some may have been from the witness of the man set free among the tombs.

Mark 8:11-13 Stuck in their world the religious & the rulers simply demand Jesus validate their place.

When they arrived, the Pharisees came out and started in on him, badgering him to prove himself, pushing him up against the wall. Provoked, he said, "Why does this generation clamor for miraculous guarantees? If I have anything to say about it, you'll not get so much as a hint of a guarantee." He then left them, got back in the boat, and headed for the other side. *The Message*

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord,...

Luke 4:16-22 And He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him...

8:12 Sighing deeply in His spirit... God's sighing over wickedness and brokenness and unbelief...

8:12 Literally, "If a sign shall be given to this generation..." Implied: *May I be accursed, or May God strike me down*

The Pharisees want to lock Jesus in their controlling man-centered religious box.

Herod had kept John preaching as long as he could lock him up between sermons.

Francis Schaeffer prophetically in the 1960s-1970s, calling this the post-Christian era in the West: *religious faith is now acceptable as long as it is privately engaging but publically irrelevant.*

Mark 8:14-21 Stuck in their world the disciples are not seeing, hearing, remembering or understanding.

Jesus warned, "Be very careful. Keep a sharp eye out for the contaminating yeast of Pharisees and the followers of Herod." Meanwhile, the disciples were finding fault with each other because they had forgotten to bring bread. Jesus overheard and said, "Why are you fussing because you forgot bread? Don't you see the point of all this? Don't you get it at all?"

8:14 Discussing why they have not bread, how they have failed, what they must do...

Exodus 12:15: no leaven (leaven has mostly negative connotations in the scriptures.)
Leviticus 2:11: no leaven in offerings by fire in the temple

Mat 16:11-12 ¹¹ "How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Luke 12:1 Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first *of all*, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² "But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

1Co 5:6-8 ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*?
⁷ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

We are not in the same situation as these disciples. We look back on what they had not yet seen and known, Christ Jesus' death and resurrection.

The importance of being in God's Word and having it in you if you are to get unstuck from your little worlds.

Do you meditate and respond in prayer regularly to who it is who has come among us?

Getting unstuck from the sphere of the flesh and being set free in the sphere of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22–6:2, 8

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
- 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.
- 1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.
- 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.
- 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.