

## “Jesus Satisfies the Hungry”

July 13, 2025

Mark 8:1-21

### Introduction:

What spiritual truths do you see in creation and the natural world?

How might these “pictures” help us abide in Jesus?

### Jesus and the crowds (Mark 8:1-3):

*“In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”*

- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive incident in a predominantly non-jewish region.
- Jesus response with compassion to the crowd. His compassion causes him to act on their behalf, satisfying the spiritual and physical needs.

### Jesus Satisfies (Mark 8:4-10):

*And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.*

- Jesus again asks the question “how many loaves do you have?” (See Mark 6:38)
- There are several similarities to the previous feeding, but also some differences. What are they?
- What is the significance of Jesus *giving thanks*, and *blessing* the food?

### The Pharisees are Back! (Mark 8:11-13):

*The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I*

*say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.*

- Why is the request of the Pharisees not genuine?
- They had SEEN Jesus perform signs, yet continued in unbelief.
- The Pharisees, in their hardness of heart, are resistant and hostile toward Jesus.

#### **The Disciples Miss It! (Mark 8:14-21)**

*“Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod” And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve” And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven” And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”*

- The disciples miss the meaning of Jesus’ warning about leaven. Leaven refers to a small amount of dough from previous week mixed in to make new dough rise.
- Mark doesn’t define what the leaven of the Pharisees actually is. Matthew defines it as their *teaching* (Mt 16:12), Luke defines it as *hypocrisy* (Luke 12:1, Mark 7:6)
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- Jesus then uses a series of rhetorical questions and actual questions with the intent to lead the disciples to a place of greater understanding and faith.

#### **Understanding Hard Heartedness:**

- The Pharisees, being **hard of heart, are resistant and hostile towards Jesus**. Whereas the disciples, at this point, spiritual dull and lack understanding.
- A hard heart is a state of **spiritual insensitivity and resistance** to God’s will.
- A hard heart is a heart that has walked in disobedience and unbelief for a period of time.
- There seems to be a progression in the hardening of one’s heart towards Jesus. It doesn’t happen all at once.

#### **What does a hard heart look like?**

- Indifference to Jesus (relationally disconnected) and the things of God (Mark 3:5)
- Walks in disobedience
- Refuses to hear God, refuses repentance (2 Chronicles 36:13, Romans 2:4-5)
- Lack of spiritual understanding (Mark 8:17)
- Unfeeling heart, lack of compassion (Mark 3:5)

#### **How does a heart become hard?**

Sin, especially habitual, unrepentant sin, causes the heart to slowly, gradually become more and more calloused. (See Hebrews 3:13-15 below)

#### **How do we keep ourselves from getting a hard heart?**

- Guard your heart! Proverbs 4:23
- Being a part of healthy community of believers where we are encouraged and exhorted regularly.

**Hebrews 3:13-14** “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

#### **The Danger of a Hard Heart:**

**Ephesians 4:18-19** "darkened in their understanding and alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts. Having lost all sense of shame, they have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity, with a craving for more."

- **Alienated** from God and **darkened** in understanding

#### **What to do if you find yourself with a hardened heart?**

In humility, confess and repent! (1 John 1:9)

Stay close to and spend much time with Jesus and others who love Jesus!

Walk in obedience.