

THE BOOK OF MARK

Have Life Church – Virtual Bible Study: Mark 8

In Mark 8, Jesus uses several instances of miraculous healing and parables to teach the disciples about spiritual blindness as they struggle to truly understand his identity and mission. Although they recognize him as the Messiah, distinctly different from the prophets and devout men of God that foretold of his coming, they are still short-sighted in their focus on trivial things and swayed by their own thoughts versus the thoughts of God.

Mark 8:17-18 NLT

17 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don’t you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in?
18 “You have eyes—can’t you see? You have ears—can’t you hear? Don’t you remember anything at all?”

Teaching Points

1. Heart and Vision

- The disciples have been traveling with Jesus witnessing all these miracles and multiplication, but for some reason still fall into being short-sighted and affected by trivial things

2. Healing and Vision

- Far too often, we want instantaneous miracles, blessings, breakthroughs, understanding, revelation—we want to know it all up front and in our time. But in this writing, Jesus shows us the gradual and progressive works of God.

3. Mission and Vision

- Jesus asked His disciples, “who do men say that I am?” – to which they answered John the Baptist, the prophet Elijah, or other prophets. Then he said to them “But who do you say that I am?”
- Peter declared “You are the Christ, the Messiah.” To which Jesus strictly warned them to tell no one about Him. This confession aligns believers with God’s mission.

Parallel Reading: Consider the following chapters for additional Bible study to parallel Mark 8:

- **The Feeding of the Four Thousand (Matthew 15:29-39)**
- **The Pharisees Seek a Sign (Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 12:54-56)**
- **Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod (Matthew 16:5-12)**
- **Peter's Confession of Christ (Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-20; John 6:66-71)**
- **Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection (Matthew 16:21-23; Luke 9:21-22)**



Quote:

“In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don’t.”

~Blaise Pascal

Dr. Sho’s Big Point:

In our Bible study according to the Book of Mark, we find a fast-paced, storytelling account of Jesus’ life, leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. The book highlights him as the Messiah and Son of God, who is performing miracles and ministry on his journey to the cross—often speaking in parables, directly confronting religious leaders who sought to condemn him, and building disciples to speak the Good News along the way.