

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Mark 8

Lesson 7

Mark 8 challenges the believer's faith. The believer who chooses to truly follow Jesus will listen differently, see differently, hear differently, and live differently. The result will be a life of *gain*. May this lesson challenge you to see *gain* as God sees it so that you will neither be reticent or *ashamed* to follow the *Son of Man*.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart**.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, immediately, gospel, hear/understand, and any reference to religious rulers

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 8. Remember, as you mark the key words *Jesus* and *God*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

DAY TWO: Read Mark 8:1-12

1. As Mark 8 begins, the multitude has been with Jesus for *three days*. According to verses 2 and 3, what was Jesus' concern?
 - a. This story is very similar to the one recorded in Mark 6:35-44. Read that account and record the differences with the story recorded in Mark 8:1-10.

2. Jesus can not only multiply bread, He can make it from scratch. The psalmist wrote of God's provision to Israel in Psalm 78. Consider the complaint of the people from verse 20. *Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?* What did God do for them? verses 24,25
 - a. What can we learn from this example (both of Israel's attitude and God's faithfulness to provide for His people)?

3. *Jesus had compassion on the multitude, because....they had nothing to eat.* How does it impact you when you think about Jesus caring about people's physical needs?

4. Read the following verses and record what they teach about giving to the hungry (poor):

Proverbs 19:17

Proverbs 21:13

Proverbs 22:9

 - a. What steps might you take to "qualify" for these blessings?

5. *Then the Pharisees came out...* (Mark 8:11). What were they *seeking*?
- They had just seen Jesus multiply 7 loaves of bread and a few fish into enough food to feed over 4,000 people. What kind of *sign* do you think they were looking for?
 - Why are *signs* of no significance to those with hard hearts?
 - Has there ever been a time when you asked God for a *sign*? Looking back, what have you learned?
 - As believers, we have had many *signs* or experiences that confirm our faith. Share one.

DAY THREE: Read Mark 8:13-21

- After leaving the multitude, Jesus and the disciples got *into the boat again, and departed to the other side*. What had the disciples *forgotten*? verse 14
 - What did Jesus say to the disciples?
 - What did the disciples think Jesus was referring to? verse 16
- Seeing they did *not perceive or understand*; what two miracles did Jesus remind them of? verses 19,20
 - List the questions Jesus asked them regarding *understanding, seeing, and hearing*.
 - To what did Jesus attribute their inability to *understand*? verse 17
 - Describe how you *perceive* the *hardened hearts* of the disciples.
 - How can we soften a hardened heart?

DAY FOUR: Read Mark 8:22-30

1. *Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him* (verse 22). What did Jesus do? verse 23
 - a. At first the blind man's healing was only partial. How did he describe his eyesight?
 - 1.) What does verse 25 say happened next?
2. Why do you think Jesus healed people in so many unique ways?
3. Many of us (most of us) receive spiritual sight in degrees. Describe how you have personally experienced this.
4. What can we learn from Jesus' behavior in this story that we can use as an example as to how we are to be towards someone who is hurting?
5. In Mark 8:27, we see Jesus and the disciples moving from Bethsaida *to the towns of Caesarea Philippi*. What question did Jesus ask the disciples?
 - a. What were some of the answers they gave to Jesus?
 - b. Who did Peter say Jesus was?
 - 1.) Who do you say Jesus is?
 - 2.) Read the parallel account recorded in Matthew 16:13-20. What additional information did Matthew add?

DAY FIVE: Read Mark 8:31-38

1. After Peter acknowledged that he believed Jesus to be *the Christ*, Jesus *began to teach them*. According to Mark 8:31, what are the topics He taught?

a. How did Peter handle the news?

b. Record Jesus' rebuke to Peter.

1.) Peter had just been so inspired at Caesarea Philippi. What does this teach us about thinking we are so spiritual because God has given us a special insight?

2. In Mark 8:34, Jesus laid down the criteria for *whoever desires to come after Him*. What do you think it means to:

deny yourself

take up your cross

follow Him

3. What did Jesus teach about *whoever desires to save his life* in Mark 8:35-38.

a. In what way can a person both *save his life* and *lose it* at the same time?

b. What does it mean to be *ashamed of Christ*?

DAY SIX: Review Mark 8

1. Describe the *compassion* of Jesus as you contemplate the feeding of the 4,000 and the healing of the blind man.
2. In what ways does Jesus' challenge to the disciples in Mark 8:15-21 challenge you?
3. Jesus asked the disciples who they thought He was. Consider your own misconceptions about Jesus in the past. What were some of them?
4. Jesus challenged the *hearing of the disciples* in this chapter. In verses 34-38, He challenged them by inviting them to a deeper walk with Him. How has this invitation stirred you to *follow Him* and live a life that truly produces *gain*?

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 1 John 4:15

Chapter Eight

¹In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, ²*"I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."* ⁴Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?" ⁵He asked them, *"How many loaves do you have?"* And they said, "Seven." ⁶So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. ⁷They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. ⁸So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. ⁹Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, ¹⁰immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha. ¹¹Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. ¹²But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, *"Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."* ¹³And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side. ¹⁴Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵Then He charged them, saying, *"Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."* ¹⁶And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." ¹⁷But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, *"Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? ¹⁸Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?"* They said to Him, "Twelve." ²⁰*"Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?"* And they said, "Seven." ²¹So He said to them, *"How is it you do not understand?"* ²²Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. ²³So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. ²⁴And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." ²⁵Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. ²⁶Then He sent him away to his house, saying, *"Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."* ²⁷Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, *"Who do men say that I am?"* ²⁸So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He said to them, *"But who do you say that I am?"* Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. ³¹And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

³²He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "*Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*" ³⁴When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "*Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*" ³⁵*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.* ³⁶*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?* ³⁷*Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?* ³⁸*For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*"