

Mark 8

1. It has been pointed out that Mark's gospel, though straightforward and simple, seems to have been carefully structured to repeat the truths that Jesus was trying to teach his disciples. In fact, chapter 8 seems to follow a pattern established in chapters 6-7. Compare the passages and identify a common event or idea between them.

6:31-44	_____	8:1-9
6:45-56	_____	8:10
7:1-23	_____	8:11-13
7:24-30	_____	8:14-21
7:31-36	_____	8:22-26
7:37	_____	8:27-30

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (vs. 1-10)

2. How is the feeding of the four thousand similar to the feeding of the five thousand?

3. Often times in scripture, the number seven has significance because it represents completeness, wholeness or holiness. Do you think it has significance in this passage?

Jesus Exposes the Yeast of the Pharisees (vs. 11-21)

4. What kind of a sign do the Pharisees ask Jesus to give them? What do you think would have convinced them of Jesus' divine authority?

5. Read Psalm 78:13-18, 32, which speaks about the Israelites in the desert after their exodus from Egypt. How does the description of the Israelites fit the Pharisees, too?

6. For discussion: What is the "yeast of the Pharisees" and why does Jesus warn the disciples against it?

7. Can you identify where the "yeast of the Pharisees" may have affected you?

Jesus Heals a Blind Man (vs. 22-26)

8. What unusual things does Jesus do in healing this man? Why did it take two touches from Jesus?

9. What is the result of Jesus putting his hands on the man's eyes a second time?

The Truth About Jesus and His Suffering (8:27-9:1)

10. After Jesus calmed the storm (4:41), the disciples asked themselves, "Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!" Now *Jesus* asks them who they think he is. Why is it important for Jesus' disciples to understand who he is?

11. "The Christ" means Messiah, chosen one or anointed one. Most Jews in Jesus' day believed the Christ would be a political hero, their ideal king who would reestablish the sovereignty of King David's throne and defeat their national enemies. Because of the misunderstanding, Jesus rarely claimed that title for himself. "Son of Man" is the term he most commonly uses for himself. Read Daniel 7:13-14 and describe the "son of man." What is the scope of his kingdom?

12. Now read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and describe the "servant." How does Jesus clarify their understanding of the mission of the Christ?

13. Why does Jesus rebuke Peter?

14. What does following Jesus mean? What are the requirements? What are the benefits?

15. What does it look like in your life? (How do you "deny yourself" or "lose your life for Christ and for the gospel?")

Sermon Notes

Mark 8

Title: _____ **Passage:** _____

What I needed to hear today: (something to remember, put into practice, change in my thinking, change in my behavior)