

BEGINNINGS – HAVING EYES TO SEE

Mark 8:13 - 25

CONTEXT

- A. Mark 6:30f – **Jesus feeds 5,000** with five loaves and two fish. **Twelve baskets left over.**
- B. Healings.
- C. Jesus walks on water. Mark 6:48f
- D. Mark 8:1f – **Jesus feeds 4,000** with seven loaves and a few fish. **Seven baskets left over.**
- E. Mark 8:11. Pharisees demand a sign to prove he is the Messiah.

WHAT DOES “LEAVEN OF PHARISEES” AND “LEAVEN HEROD” SYMBOLIZE?

- Any type of teaching, belief or behavior that leads me or someone else away from Jesus Christ.
 - A. **False teaching.** Matt 16:11
 - B. **Hypocrisy.** Luke 12:1
 - C. **Evil in the heart of man,** particularly, the use or abuse of power in an evil way. Mark 6:21f

- Matt. 16:11 ... Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees ... 12 Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees.
- Luk 12:1 ..., he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

LEAVEN INITIATES A TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IN DOUGH.

- Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.
- Leaven generally symbolizes sin or evil in scriptures:
 - 1 Cor 5:6–8; Gal 5:9 (With the exception of Matt 13:33 (cf. Luke 13:20–21))
 - Ex 13:7, leaven removed from house; not eaten during Passover week.

1. JESUS IS ALL WE NEED TO EXPERIENCE LIFE TO THE FULL.

Broken pieces picked up...? Mark 8:19-21

Jesus is:

1. Like a **precious, valuable** treasure
2. Life with Jesus is an opportunity, **not to be wasted**
3. **More than enough**

Act 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

HOW CAN WE AVOID THE “LEAVEN...” OF OUR TIME?

- Mk. 8:19-21 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."** 20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" **And they said to him, "Seven."** 21 And he said to them, "**Do you not yet understand?**" (ESV)

2. PURSUE YOUR DOUBTS UNTIL THEY ARE LIKE LEAVEN THAT IS TO BE REMOVED.

- A. Jesus calms the sea (asleep in the boat). Mk. 4:41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
- B. Jesus walks on water. Mk. 6:51-52 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

2. PURSUE YOUR DOUBTS UNTIL THEY ARE LIKE LEAVEN THAT IS TO BE REMOVED.

- Mk. 8:17-18 ... Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?
 - Mark 9:32, 9:10, 10:32

3. DECIDE TO STAND UP FOR WHOM YOU KNOW TO BE TRUE, BUT ALWAYS, IN GRACE.

A. A little compromise goes a long way!

- Don't add to or take away from the gospel.
- 1 Cor. 16:13-14 Be watchful, **stand firm in the faith**, act like men, be strong. 14 **Let all that you do be done in love.** (ESV)

- Matt. 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

WHAT IS THE MODERN-DAY “LEAVEN OF HEROD”?

- Your **tongue as a weapon**;
- Sexual behaviors that demean others; “sexting.”
- Making fun of others;
- Ditching one friend so you can move up the “food-chain.”
- Inappropriate use of social media; Xbox;
- Use (or abuse) of power to serve one’s own ends.

- Col. 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, **as though seasoned with salt**, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. (NAU)

4. SEARCH FOR THE GOODNESS OF GOD LIKE “BROKEN PIECES” GATHERED.

- Mk. 8:17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? ...
- Ps. 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, ..., 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (ESV)

KEY POINTS

1. Jesus is all I need to experience life to the full.
2. Pursue doubts like they are leaven to be removed.
3. Decide to stand up for whom you know to be true, but always in grace.
4. Search for the goodness of God like broken pieces gathered.

NEXT STEPS

1. Schedule some “thinking time” to identify the “leaven of the Pharisees” (or Herod) in your life.
 1. How can you “watch out” to avoid their spiritual impact you? Plan a strategy to do so.
2. Before you sleep, identify the goodness of God that you observed that day. Forget not all of his benefits for that day by thanking him.

THE STORY

- A. Disciple's statement – *Who has some bread* (v 14)? (One loaf is found.)
- B. Jesus' interruption – a double warning:
 - “*Watch out. Beware...*” (v 15)
 - 1) *Leaven* of Pharisees. Matt 16:11; Luke 12:1
 - 2) *Leaven* of Herod. Mark 6:21f
- C. Silence - warning is ignored (v 16) –
 - 1) “*No one brought bread??*”

THE STORY CONTINUES

D. Jesus' rebuke (17):

1. "Why are you talking about bread?" (*You are asking the wrong questions!*).

2. Do you not yet understand?

a. *Are your hearts hardened?*

b. *Do you not remember?*

1) How many baskets left over for the 5000?

2) How many baskets left over for the 4000?