

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 23, 2015

Passage: Mark 8:1-21

Memory Passage: Mark 8:8-9

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:1-10 & 6:30-44.** What similarities are there between the feeding of the 5000 and the feeding of the 4000? Please think carefully and try to find everything that is similar about these two miraculous feeding stories.

(b) What differences are there between these two feeding stories? Think deeply about this and write down all you find.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:1-21.** Reread your answers to yesterday's questions.

(b) Some scholars believe the feeding of the 4000 is a retelling of the original feeding of the 5000 but told in a way to accomplish different purposes. From yesterday's study, what evidence do you see that might support this view?

(c) What evidence do you see that contradicts this view, and how would you formulate a rebuttal (and you *should* rebut it!)?

(d) What themes do you see that connect vs. 1-10, 11-13, and 14-21, and what do these connections reveal to you?

(e) Given the entire section (8:1-21), what theological purposes does Mark accomplish by arranging the material as he does?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:11-21.** Why would seeking a sign from heaven at the hands of Jesus "test him?"

(b) Again we see Jesus sighing (cf. 7:34). Why does he sigh here?

(c) What is it about "this generation" that they should not be seeking a sign, and why will none be given?

(d) Reread Mark 1:40-3:6. What "signs" does Jesus willingly and publically give to "this generation" prior to the plot in 3:6?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:13-21.** Where is Jesus when he arrives on "the other side" in v. 13 (cf. 7:31, 8:10, and 8:13)?

(b) If you were watching these verses acted out in a play, and the words in v. 14 were the last words spoken before the intermission, what would you be talking about with your theater companion? What would you be expecting to happen when act II begins? Would you be expecting what happens in vs. 15-21 or would you be surprised?

(c) What does Jesus intend for the disciples to understand and to do when He warns them in v. 15?

(d) What do the disciples reveal by their actions in v. 10 about their own faith?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 8:1-21.** What should the disciples have perceived, understood, seen, and heard?

(b) What do you learn about Jesus in the way He speaks with the disciples in vs. 19-20, and what do you learn about the disciples by their responses?

(c) In what ways do you miss what Jesus is doing as you are focused on material (“bread”) needs in your life? In what ways is your blindness and lack of understanding greater than even the disciples’?

(d) Who are the “sign seekers” of our day, and what are they trying to accomplish? In what ways are you prone to asking for signs rather than trusting the person and work of Jesus?

(e) What is the relationship between faith and the actions of the disciples? What is the relationship between faith and your answers to (c) and (d) above?

DATE: August 23, 2015

PASSAGE: Mark 8:1-21

Bread, Leaven, and Understanding