



*‘Now!’ Sermon Series*

Sermon #29

*‘The Folly of Forgetfulness!’*

*Mark 8:1-26*

Sunday, November 17th, 2024

*Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:*

- This past Sunday as we looked at Mark 7:24-37, we were able to see two instances of how Jesus healed two different individuals as we looked at a sermon entitled *‘Demon Possessed and Left for Deaf!’*
  - I asked the question: *What do we learn about Jesus when we see His interactions with the social outcasts of society?*
    - **Truth #1: *The Presence of Jesus is Always Recognizable. (vv. 24-25)***
    - **Truth #2: *The Probing of Jesus is Accurately Received. (vv. 26-30)***

- **Truth #3: *The Power of Jesus is Acknowledged Rejoicefully. (vv. 31-37)***

- Based on last week’s sermon, do you remember the three questions that I left you with?
  - Have you noticed His Presence?
  - Do you allow Jesus to prob you in such a way to where you don’t get offended or run away?
  - Do you acknowledge Him rejoiceful?

*‘The Folly of Forgetfulness!’*

*Mark 8:1-26*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*We can see the Folly of Forgetfulness in this text when we look at how Jesus feeds again, Jesus fights the pharisees again, Jesus is flabbergasted at His disciples again, and that Jesus is fulfills needs again.*

**Intro:**

- As human beings, forgetfulness is apart of who are as fallen human beings.
  - ***I remember my Childhood worship Pastor had 5 children.***
    - Like every Sunday he brought his children to Church. One Sunday (years after the event happened), he told the story of how they forgot one of their children at home...

- *He told the story of how he was leading worship with his wife and while they were leading Worship, it dawned on him that there youngest child had been left at home.*
- *For me personally, I often forget different things like putting up the dishes, or remembering to make a call, and different things of that nature.*
  - From time to time, we all forget things.
- *But in our scripture text this morning, it's going to feel like a marathon of a sermon because of all the ground we're going to cover in the scripture.*
  - *What we find in Mark 8, is that Mark records similar events that had happened earlier on.*
    - *To be clear, I am not saying they are a summarization of the same events that happened earlier in Mark's Gospel. I believe they are different events of similar things.*
  - For example, here are the parallels between Mark 6:31-7:37 and Mark 8:1-30:
    - Mark 6:41-44, Feeding a Multitude, Mark 8:1-9
    - Mark 6:45-56, Crossing the Lake, Mark 8:10
    - Mark 7:1-23, Dispute with the Pharisees, Mark 8:11-13
    - Mark 7:24-30, Discussion about Bread, Mark 8:14-21
    - Mark 7:31-36, Healing, Mark 8:22-26

- *I believe Mark includes these similar events in the way and order he does for two particular reasons:*
  - *#1: Historical Accuracy.*
    - Meaning, that he (Mark), recorded them in the timeline of events that they occurred in.
  - *#2: Theological Purpose.*
    - To remember what God has done previously, should help us to trust Him in the present and in the future.
- *I believe the main purpose of this text that we will find this morning, is this:*
  - *We will see the Dullness of the Disciples, and how they fell into the Folly of Forgetting what God had previously done, and that Jesus did similar miracles over and over to try and get them to understand...*
- When we overviewed Mark back in April, one of the main things I brought out about its theme was *Discipleship*.
  - *One thing it's important to keep in mind in our own walk with the Lord, our own discipleship journey, is to not get complacent with what God has done in our past, that we are unsure if He can handle our present.*

- ***A key mile marker in your own discipleship is where you don't forget what God has done, but have confidence in what He has done before, and that He can do it again.***

**Question to Ask:**

*How can we see the Folly of Forgetfulness that the Disciples fall into here and avoid the same trap?*

**Truth #1: *Jesus Feeds, Again.* (vv. 1-10)**

- ‘In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, 2 “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” 4 And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” 5 And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” 6 And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. 7 And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. 8 And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. 10 And immediately he got into the

boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.’

- With the phrase ‘in those days’ that is found in verse 1, I believe that to mean that this feeding of the four thousand, occurred in the region of Decapolis (Mark 7:31 said they were going to that region).
  - ***While there are many ‘scholars’ out there who believe there were not two separate feedings, only one, I certainly disagree with that.***
    - ***Both Matthew and Mark include the feeding of the 5k and 4k, but Luke and John only include the feeding of the 5k.***
  - In verse 1, the phrase ‘**again a great crowd had gathered**’, indicates that a miracle **like** this one had happened before. With this phrase, Mark is inviting his readers to point out the differences between the two.
    - ***When looking at the difference between the two feedings, I believe it’s easy to see they were two separate feedings.***

<b><i>Feeding the 5,000</i></b>	<b><i>Feeding the 4,000</i></b>
5,000 men (15,000-20,000) people	4,000 people total
5 loaves and 2 fish	7 loaves and a few small fish
1 day in the wilderness	3 days in the wilderness

Springtime in North Galilee	No time mentioned, and Southeast of Galilee
12 Baskets of leftovers	7 Baskets of leftovers
One prayer	Two prayers
Mostly Jews	Mostly Gentiles

- **To understand even more that this was most certainly two feedings, Jesus Himself will say this later in our text today in Mark 8:19-20, a clear and distinct difference between the two feedings.**
  - Jesus very similarly feeds the crowds again that He was teaching.
  - **Similar to the first time, the applications to draw are similar, yet still impactful.**
- Let me point out **3** things regarding Jesus feeding the 4,000 here.
- **Compassion of Christ. (vv. 2-3)**
  - “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.”
  - **Back in Mark 6:34, Mark added that Jesus had compassion because He had acted compassionately in feeding the 5,000.**

- **Notice closely here that Jesus says in verse 2, ‘I have compassion’.**
- **\*Word Study\***
  - This word compassion, comes from a greek word (**Spangnizomai-Σπλαγχνίζομαι**)
  - The root of this word, literally means vital organs, and in the animal sacrifices of the OT, the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys of the animals were eaten by priests before the animal could be sacrificed on the altar.
- **This word that Jesus uses here, takes on a metaphorical meaning of being deeply moved within.**
  - The main thing here, is that Jesus has pure emotion for this crowd. He does not want them to go home hungry and faint on the way (V. 3)
- Jesus has compassion.
- **Concern of Disciples. (vv. 4-5)**
  - ‘And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” 5 And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.”
  - **Here in verses 4-5, the disciples fall into the first folly of forgetfulness.**
    - Jesus verbally expresses in front of His disciples that He wants to feed the crowd

(since He, Jesus, didn't want them to go to their homes hungry).

○ ***These same disciples were with Jesus when He fed the 5,000 earlier in Mark's Gospel back in chapter 6.***

- Now in verse 4, they ask Jesus a question we've all asked before **'HOW?'**
  - We've all asked questions like...
    - God **HOW** am I going to pay my bills?
    - God **HOW** am I going to get through this work week?
    - God **HOW** am I going to make through my most recent medical diagnosis?
    - God... **HOW?**
- Here the disciples ask HOW are we going to feed these people in such a desolate and secluded location?
  - ***While some view verse 4 as the disciples dullness and similar to that of the complaining of the Israelites in the desert back in Exodus 16:3, others say they were trying to figure out the logistics of their geographical debacle.***
- Either way, they have Christ in front of them who already did it once, and can surely do it again.

■ ***In verse 5, we see that Jesus wants to find out what is available before we see His true care on display...***

● ***Care of Christ. (vv. 6-10)***

- 'And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. **7** And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. **8** And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. **9** And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. **10** And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.'
- ***Once Jesus is given the 7 loaves that the Disciples were able to find, He told the crowd to sit down.***
  - In addition to the bread, they had a few small fish.
- ***Jesus, yet again, created a meal to feed 4,000 people out of so little.***
  - ***When it comes to the disciples, I think we can learn an important lesson...***
    - May we never get so used to the miracles and power of Jesus in

our lives, that we forget what He's done...

- Remind yourselves and your children and your children's children of what God has done for you.
- *In verse 8, we find another reason that the feeding of the 4k was different than the 5k...*
  - *\*Word Study\**
    - The word baskets in verse 8 is different than the word for baskets back in Mark 6 where there were 12 baskets left over. The greek word that was used there was '**Kophinos**' which were small wicker lunch baskets.
    - Here in verse 8, the word for baskets is '**Spuris**' σπυρίδας
  - The word 'Spuris' only occurs 5 times in the NT, but it actually means 'hamper' instead of a small basket.
- *Let me ask you, how often and how quickly do you forget the mercies of the Lord?*
  - W.W. said 'We need to remind ourselves that Jesus Christ is still the same and has the solution to every problem. All we need do is trust Him, give Him our all, and obey.'

## Truth #2: *Jesus Fights, Again. (vv. 11-13)*

- 'The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.'
- Shortly after Jesus had performed another miracle, the feeding of the 4,000, the Pharisees appeared again to fight with Jesus.
  - *Hopefully by now you are starting to see a strong pattern between Jesus performing a miracle and evidence that He is the Messiah, followed by the groaning and grueling gossip of the pharisees...*
- Dr. Daniel Aiken said 'In spite of His numerous miracles and teachings that give evidence that He is the Messiah, they reject what they see and hear, and they raise the stakes in their confrontation with Jesus.'
  - *With the Pharisees, it's the same old thing. They just want to fight and criticize Christ.*
    - You and I must check our own hearts that the critical pharasedic nature is not coming out and tormenting others in our own lives...
  - There are **2** things to point out concerning Jesus fighting again with the Pharisees, or should I say, the Pharisees fighting with Jesus!
- *Always Argumentative. (v. 11)*

- ‘The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him.’
- All throughout *each* of the Gospels there’s no doubt to me that the Pharisees portray themselves as highly argumentative individuals.
  - ***They are the kind of people that are looking to critique and cut someone down at even the slightest of opportunities.***
    - I encourage you to not be that kind of individual.
- ***The Pharisees ask from Jesus in verse 11, what He had already been doing quite a lot of...***
  - At this point in Mark, Jesus had already performed *many* miracles. So why were the pharisees asking for another sign in order to test Him?
- ***They didn’t just want a miracle, but they wanted a conclusive sign directly from God.***
  - What Jesus had already done was not enough for them.
- But here’s the key, they wanted Jesus to do something to show His deity on their terms and without faith.
  - ***The pharisees ideology towards Jesus and their conversation with Him goes completely against what Jesus taught.***
- Jesus taught that you could come to Him through faith and belief in Him.
  - But the Pharisees didn’t believe, they just argued and wanted to seek to ridicule Him even more.
- Don’t forget Church, Commitment to Christ must be Voluntary and not coerced.
- ***Genuine Grief. (vv. 12-13)***
  - ‘And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” 13 And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.’
  - ***Just last week in Mark 7:34, we saw Jesus sighed and we discussed how it was Jesus grieving over the sin of humanity.***
    - Here, He sighs again.
  - ***\*Word Study\****
    - The word that Mark used in Mark 7:34 for sighed, is different from the Greek word he chose to use here, but I believe it’s a very similar meaning...
    - The word ‘sighed’ in verse 12 comes from the greek word ***‘anastenazein’***-ἀναστενάζασις which is a very rare word that only occurs here in the NT.



- *And scholar James Edwards says 'fewer than 30 times in all of Greek literature.'*
- While this word, similar to the word in Mark 7:34 does mean grief, here it means *'someone pushed to the limit of faithfulness.'*
  - *You can draw a strong parallel that Jesus is facing the amount of grief and frustration with the pharisees that God felt with the groaning Israelites in Exodus 33:5...*
- 'For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.'" Exodus 33:5
- I feel what Jesus is saying them to here in verse 12...
  - *Notice that Jesus responds with this in verse 12, 'Why does this generation seek a sign?'*
    - Jesus is essentially saying, if you want a sign so bad, read the scriptures! If you want a sign, listen to what I'm saying!

- *Jesus is essentially saying, if you can't see God at work in Me, no evidence is going to convince you otherwise!*
  - *The fact that the pharisees ask for another sign to 'convince them', shows their unbelief anyway...*
- *Jesus, frustrated, leaves the Pharisees and goes with his disciples into a boat again, and to the other side of the sea of Galilee we go. But, this will not be the last we hear of the Pharisees.*
  - Jesus Feeds again.
  - Jesus Fights again.
    - But now, His disciples Flabbergast Him, again!

**Truth #3: *Jesus is Flabbergasted, Again. (vv. 14-21)***

- 'Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. **15** And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." [b] **16** And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. **17** And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? 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? **19** 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?”

- ***Out of all the Gospel writers, Mark seems to be the one to describe Jesus scolding the disciples more in depth than the rest of the Gospel writers.***

- In these verses, we are brought into the intense conversation between Jesus and His disciples while on the boat that evening.

- Let’s dive into what happens here as Jesus is flabbergasted by His disciples' lack of belief in Him, again. Let’s look at **4** specific things...

- ***Unprepared. (v. 14)***

- ‘Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.’
- With the disciples here, I can’t help but laugh a little and even see the strong resemblance of myself and my own insufficiencies.
  - ***With 7 hampers full of Bread, they only brought 1 loaf.***
- The 12 disciples would not be able to all eat off of one loaf of bread, but neither would anyone think 4,000 people could eat off of 7 loafs.
  - ***I’m sure at this point the disciples were probably name calling and maybe even***

***blaming one another for forgetting the bread and leaving it behind.***

- What they seemingly forgot, is that Jesus is ***IN*** the boat. And He is about to speak up and out against them.

- ***A Metaphor. (v. 15)***

- ‘And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”’
- ***While verse 15 is surely a metaphor, it is not how the disciples interpreted it as we will see.***
- What did Jesus mean by making this visual aided statement to His Disciples?
  - ***What Jesus meant here is that a small amount of ‘leaven’ (yeast) would make an entire batch of dough go bad.***
- What Jesus is saying is that the seed of unbelief has overtaken the Pharisees and Herod to where it’s controlled their lives.
  - ***Jesus is essentially telling His disciples, not to let the unbelief seep into their lives, and take them away.***
- Outside of Matthew 13:33, yeast or Leaven when mentioned in the NT was a symbol of evil (1st Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 5:9, Exodus 12:15, Leviticus 2:11, Deuteronomy 16:4 and Leviticus 23:17).

■ ***Jesus doesn't want us or His disciples, to get caught up in the seeds of doubt and unbelief that non-believers will often try to throw our way...***

● ***They don't get it! (v. 16)***

- 'And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread.'
- Jesus shares this metaphor with them, and they don't get it!

■ ***They just continue to discuss how they have no bread or (too little to speak of).***

○ ***Oh! How you and I are the same way!***

■ When God answers our prayers that we've been praying and we receive His blessings yet we totally miss it and begin speaking of how 'God didn't hear me' or 'I don't know when God's gonna fix this'.

■ ***So often we miss God's blessings because we aren't willing to hear what God has to say...***

- How often do you and I get together and discuss about God and what we don't have when He's right in front of us?

● ***Jesus asks them Questions. (v. 17-21)***

- And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? 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? **19** 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?"

- Jesus seemingly let the disciples talk about this for a little bit until He speaks up.

■ ***When Jesus speaks up here, He approaches them with 9 total questions.***

- As I go through the text and pull out the questions Jesus asked, I encourage you to look at your own life and ask the Lord if He's asking you any of these questions this morning...

- ***#1: 'Why are you discussing that you do not have any bread?' (v. 17)*** Oh.
- ***#2: 'Don't you understand or comprehend?' (v. 17)*** No.
- ***#3: 'Is your heart hardened?' (v. 17)*** Yes.
- ***#4: 'Do you have eyes, and not see?' (v. 18)*** Yes.
- ***#5: 'Do you have ears, and not hear?' (v. 18)*** Yes.

- #6: ‘Do you not remember?’ (v. 18) No.
- #7: ‘When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets of pieces of bread did you collect?’ (v. 19) 12
- #8: ‘When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many large baskets of pieces of bread did you collect?’ (v. 20) 7
- #9: ‘Don’t you understand yet?’ (v. 21) apparently, not yet.
  - *Jesus is not asking these questions in order to shame or degrade the disciples.*
  - *Instead, I believe that Jesus is trying to instruct them.*
- He wants them to see how hesitant they are to embrace the scriptural reality of **Luke 1:37**...
  - ‘For nothing will be impossible with God.’
- *Just like the disciples, we often see God’s great works and we want Him to work, but we often fail to fully understand and seek to comprehend what He’s doing...*

**Truth #4: *Jesus Fulfills Needs, Again.* (vv. 22-26)**

- ‘And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. **23** And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” **24** And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” **25** Then

Jesus[c] laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. **26** And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

- Jesus and the disciples remain on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, for now.
- *While what we see in this text is historically accurate and true (it happened), we can’t miss the parable that Jesus is giving us...*
  - *Jesus is symbolizing the spiritual journey of the disciples through the healing of the blind man in Bethsaida.*
    - To be honest, until Christ death, burial and resurrection, they won’t fully understand...
- As we’ve seen before, Jesus is going to heal a blind man. But here, with where Mark positions this narrative, it is illustrating the disciples’ spiritual sight...
  - I believe there are **2** things to point out here...
- ***The Hurting can be brought to Jesus.* (v. 22)**
  - ‘And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him.’
  - As soon as Jesus and His disciples got off the boat and to Bethsaida, already someone was there with a need.



thing that we must take from this is that ***we must not fall into the folly of forgetting what God has done.***

- Remember, our adversary, satan, wants us to forget about what God has done.
- He wants you to forget and doubt what only God can do...
- ***Don't fall into that Folly. During this time of invitation, think back in your life alone of what He's done...***
  - ***Think of how good He has been to you, despite our unfaithfulness to Him...***
- **Truth #1: *Jesus Feeds, Again.* (vv. 1-10)**
- **Truth #2: *Jesus Fights, Again.* (vv. 11-13)**
- **Truth #3: *Jesus is Flabbergasted, Again.* (vv. 14-21)**
- **Truth #4: *Jesus Fulfills Needs, Again.* (vv. 22-26)**