

Someone is **astonished** or **amazed** or **marvels** (i.e. the disciples, the people...)

_____ (Ch. 7) _____ (Ch 5)
 _____ (Ch. 7) _____ (Ch 5)
 _____ (Ch. 1) _____ (Ch 6)
 _____ (Ch. 1) _____ (Ch 6)
 _____ (Ch. 2) _____ (Ch 6)

Preparing for next week's sermon (Do this as a group!)

- ⇒ Read Mark 8:1-21 together as a group. Read *slowly* and mark the following:
- Geographical locations (especially when the action shifts to a new place)
 - Time phrases (both specific and general as well as words indicating sequence or repetition)
 - Any lists (give each item a number and give the list a title)
 - Key word: **understand** (or words with similar meaning). Add anything of interest to the theme list you just did under the "Review" section.

- ⇒ Read Mark 8:1-21 again and note below with **whom** Jesus is interacting:

v. 1-10 _____
 v. 11-13 _____ v. 14-21 _____

- ⇒ Consider the miracle recorded in v. 1-10. Do you think this is a second telling of the one in Mark 6 or is it a new event? Try to answer this question *without* going back and re-reading Mark 6. There are some obvious hints within these verses alone. Also, don't get hung up on numerical details at this point.

In the blanks below, jot down any pertinent information including verse numbers.
 [Hint: If you were diligent in marking key words, locations, and time phrases as suggested above, this *might* seem like an unnecessary question!]

Time to PRAY (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!

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Worship Next Sunday: February 4, 2024

"Look Beyond the Obvious: It's Not About the Bread!"

(Mark 8:1-21) Pastor Ben McCardell

Sermon Notes – January 28, 2024

Review

- ⇒ As we continue to draw closer to the "hinge" of Mark in chapter 8, we continue some of the themes and conversations from our text last week. Mark drew our minds to this encounter and conflict with the religious leaders of the day again, as Jesus challenged their idea and the value of external righteousness.
- ⇒ Where we're going today has some level of bearing that was cast much farther back in the story of the Bible. In our Advent Cycle this previous Christmas, we looked at the blessing of Abraham and the promises God gave him: that he would be blessed to be a blessing to the *world*. That mountain peak moment cast our gaze across the story of the Bible to many places, and we'll see some of the inner workings today.

Today's Text: Mark 7:24-37

In one story today, we'll read of a woman who begs Jesus for even just a little bit of his help and blessing and she is given it in full. This is a lesson to his disciples who continue to grapple with what they have seen and heard as we draw closer to the lightbulb moment when they finally see and understand who Jesus is. The second story takes us to yet another healing, but one done in such a manner that will leave its audience in awe.

"Do Not Call Unclean What I Have Made Clean" (24-30)

- ⇒ A short history lesson of Tyre & Sidon:

- Especially Tyre has a long and storied _____ with Israel. The time of the Kings had them as a close ally in Israel's Golden Age!
- Isaiah and Ezekiel both condemn Tyre for their decadence and _____ brought on by their wealth.
- In the time of Jesus, Tyre & Sidon had been _____, becoming an entry point for Greek and Roman culture.

All this elevates the gravity of this Gentile woman coming to Jesus, begging for help!

- ⇒ The way we get to this realization, some find _____. But if we read this with the character of Jesus in our minds, then we find perhaps an opportunity to answer.
- ⇒ This unnamed Syrophoenician woman is joining the ranks of people like Rahab and Ruth: _____ who see God for who he is!

Jesus Does All Things Well (31-37)

- ⇒ From one Gentile place to another, Jesus is advancing the covenant with Abraham once more.
- ⇒ Folks in Greek towns were used to magicians and healers coming through. Every one of them made it a big show! Let's compare them to Jesus.
 - These charlatan healers drew a big _____ and did these things publicly, but Jesus brings the deaf man aside privately.
 - While others used long and _____ magic words and incantations, Jesus simply looks up and speaks one word in Aramaic, a common language: *Ephphatha* - "Be opened!"
 - This man is _____ healed! Charlatan healers were not successful!
 - And while we're not surprised by Jesus' usual charge of _____, it differs vastly from the aforementioned publicity of charlatan healers.
- ⇒ Their cry, "He has done all things well," paints a picture forward and backwards. It echoes the words of Genesis as God creates the world and it is "very good." Jesus doesn't do things halfway! He brings people into a new life, and we have it abundantly.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ Do you see the progression of God's covenant with Abraham? God loves the world and wants everyone to know him. There's a reason that two Gospel writers record his last words as the charge to be witnesses and make disciples!
- ⇒ Nothing that Jesus does is half-baked or an afterthought. Our God is a God who loves details and cares about the little things. Even the "crumbs" bear the fullness of his power and love, with nothing held in reserve. Jesus does all things well!

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

What adult were you the closest to growing up? Mom? Dad? Grandparent? Teacher? Youth leader? Neighbor? Was there a particular activity you did with that adult that encouraged the relationship to develop? Was it something totally mundane like doing dishes together . . . or just being in a car together, on a regular basis. Or was it something more exciting like going to football games? Or hiking in the mountains? Or snow skiing?

Observing the text (Review)

⇒ Read Mark 7:1-37 together as a group, one paragraph at a time and summarize each paragraph in 25 words or less. Before you start, take a few minutes to look over the first few verses silently and then discuss as a group where you think the first paragraph ends. Once you've reached a consensus, read that paragraph aloud and decide on a summary before going on to the next paragraph. Continue doing this paragraph by paragraph to the end of chapter 7.

Hint: Any of the following *could* signal the beginning of a new paragraph:

- (1) The action moves to a new location
- (2) The focus shifts to a new character
- (3) A considerable period of time seems to have transpired
- (4) The conversation (or speech) seems to shift to a new topic

⇒ Brainstorm with your group and decide on a title for Ch. 7 (10 words or less!)

⇒ Last week we began noticing themes that have come up repeatedly in the Gospel of Mark. As you read Mark 7 one more time, look for the themes listed below. Then look back over Chapters 1-6 for previous appearances of that theme. Note each verse number and a few words of explanation. The number of blanks below each theme and the chapter numbers at the end of the blanks are hints about where to look but they aren't necessarily definitive or exhaustive!

Jesus (or Mark, the writer) comments on someone's lack of understanding

[Hint: Look for the word **understand** but consider that **not seeing** or **not hearing** might also imply a lack of understanding.]
