



THE GOSPEL of

**MARK**

*More Bread, Less Yeast*

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More Bread  
Less Yeast

## Where we are in the Gospel of Mark...

- First 8½ chapters of Mark ask the question, “who is this man?” and emphasize his authority
- Context... Didn’t we just go through this?
  - Ch 6:31 – 7:37 is repeated by Jesus in 8:1-30
    - Feeding of a multitude
    - Crossing the Sea
    - Run in with Pharisees
    - Teaching spiritual truth using bread as a metaphor
    - Disciples rebuked & seen as hard-hearted as they fail to understand who Jesus is and the application of his teaching
    - Healing
    - Confession of faith



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- Context... Didn’t we just go through this?
  - Ch 6:31 – 7:37 is repeated by Jesus in 8:1-30
  - Why is this important?
    1. Emphasize Jesus’ power and authority
    2. Emphasize the people’s inability to recognize who he really was (including his disciples)
    3. For the reader to recall...
      - a. Evidence of who the Christ would be – Blind would see, oppressed be set free (Is 61)
      - b. Parable of Sower – ears that can’t hear; eyes that can’t see

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Mark  
8:1-21

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup> “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup> If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

<sup>4</sup> His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

<sup>5</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.

<sup>6</sup> He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the



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Mark  
8:1-21

people, and they did so. <sup>7</sup> They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. <sup>8</sup> The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup> About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, <sup>10</sup> he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. <sup>12</sup> He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup> Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

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Mark  
8:1-21

<sup>14</sup> The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

<sup>16</sup> They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

<sup>17</sup> Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

“Twelve,” they replied.



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Mark  
8:1-21

<sup>20</sup> “And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?”

They answered, “Seven.”

<sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”



## The Bread of Life

### 1. Important Observations

- Second time Jesus has provided a miraculous meal
- Motivation is different... Jesus is concerned for the physical well-being of the people who have been with him for 3 days!
- Disciples basically ask Jesus what he's going to do rather than Jesus telling his disciples to feed them
- Location important – many Gentiles present



### The Bread of Life

#### 1. Important Observations

#### 2. Significance of Event

- The reader is meant to make a spiritual comparison to physical meal – Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Messiah
  - John 6:35... Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
- Since the feeding included Gentiles, Jesus would be the spiritual substance for both Jews and Gentiles
  - Side note: perhaps a foreshadow of what the church would look like – Jews & Gentiles receiving nourishment together from Jesus

### Give Us a Sign

#### 1. Important Observations

- Pharisees are up to their old tricks again – not just asking for another miracle – it was a trap!
  - Deuteronomy 13:2-5 is what the Pharisees are up to – text is about testing a prophet to see if he's from God or not
  - Testing would be a common practice (disguising the trap)
  - They wanted Jesus to prove by what authority he was teaching and doing all these miracles but they already exposed that they believed his authority was demonic (3:22)
- Jesus sighs again because of the hardness of heart and unbelief of the religious leaders
  - Unable to “hear” or “see” that his words and deeds worked together to give evidence of his authority

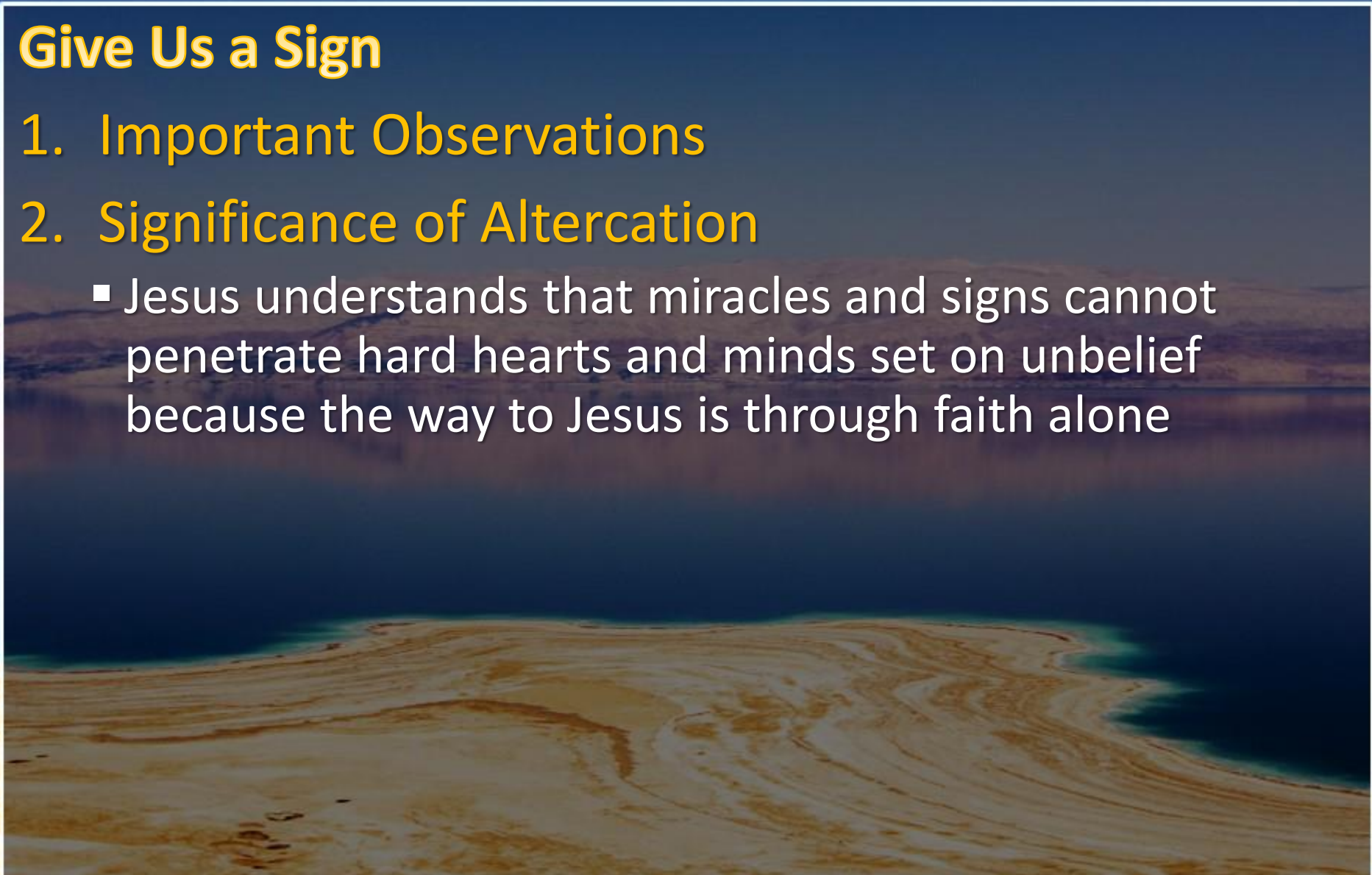


### Give Us a Sign

#### 1. Important Observations

#### 2. Significance of Altercation

- Jesus understands that miracles and signs cannot penetrate hard hearts and minds set on unbelief because the way to Jesus is through faith alone



### The Warning

#### 1. Important Observations

- Disciples completely miss the spiritual nature of Jesus' teaching on yeast/leaven
  - The disciples are completely consumed by their immediate circumstances and preoccupations
  - Yeast/leaven is a metaphor for corruption & specifically represents the Pharisee's evil intent to ask for a sign when their minds were already made up about him
  - The great danger of "leaven" in this case is that unbelief and the demand for a sign is infectious
- The rebuke focuses in on the disciples' inability to "hear" and "see" spiritual truth
  - Repeated exposure to teaching and miracles frustrating



### The Warning

#### 1. Important Observations

#### 2. Essence of Teaching

- Unbelief and hard heartedness spreads – it does not only affect the holder
- Continued exposure to Jesus and his teachings can produce “dullness” instead of enlightenment when not put into practice or met with unbelief
  - “Eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear”
  - Sermon on the mount – wise and foolish builders

### More Bread, Less Yeast – What we can take home

#### 1. Jesus sustains us

- We need him more than we need physical food

#### 2. Belief is compelled by faith not signs

- Jesus call a generation looking for signs “evil”
- Evidence of God’s work is all around us and his words are still with us today

#### 3. Eyes to see and ears to hear

- We need to put ourselves with the disciples – this is what we do – we hear, we see yet we lose the ability to marvel at the teaching in the Bible and the works Jesus has done, is doing and will do in the future