|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  Mark 7:31-8:26 Sermon Outline  08/24/23  “Failure to see Jesus”  INTRO:  If someone were to come to you offering billion dollars, would you take it?  How about in exchange for your eyes?  Absolutely not right?  Your eyes are priceless to you. You would give everything for your eyes  But there is something more precious than your physical eyes, your spiritual eyes.  THESIS:  Mark is going to show you why you desperately need to receive the vision to see Christ. | 2  Jesus goes out from Tyre to the region of the Decapolis, the place of the ten cities.  We come to another Markan sandwich…sort of  Markan sandwich normally is initial story then interrupted by another story only to resume the initial story again  Structure a bit different, but Mark is going to show you similarity  V. 32 They bring to Him mute and deaf man.  Poor guy doesn’t know to speak because he is deaf  -But people implore Jesus to heal him  So Jesus puts his fingers into ears  -Knows what the problem is  Puts spit onto tongue  -spit does not contain healing properties by itself,  but symbolic |
| 3  Jesus looks up to heaven and gives “deep sigh”  “deep sigh”=groan like Rom 8:23 of believers who groan inwardly waiting for resurrected body.  Jesus knew what this man felt. Pain and suffering from a cursed and fallen creation.  What happened to him? V. 35  His ears were opened and impediment of his speech was removed.  -He spoke plainly  -Didn’t need to go to Heidi for speech therapy  -Didn’t need to start from ABCs of speaking  Amazing, instantaneous healing  VV. 36-37 Tells them not to tell people about His miracle  -Ready to make Jesus king and topple the Romans  -Didn’t want people to know He was a miracle  worker. Need His death and resurrection | 4  Couldn’t contain it.  They were “utterly astonished”=bad  We get into Chapter 8  Different account than feeding of 5000  5000=Jews  4000=Gentiles because Gentile region  8:2 “compassion”= “splagnizomai”=spleen  This time, it is more impossible situation because crowds haven’t eaten for a while.  -They will faint  -At least 5000 disciples could send to buy  themselves food  Disciples respond in v. 4  -Hard to imagine disciples already forgot  -Like Isaiah they have eyes but do not see |
| 5  Like the 5000 Jesus does the same thing with 4000. He gives thanks and multiplies it  -People were “satisfied”= “gorged”  -Jesus sends away the crowd  V. 11 Pharisees show up!  -Ask for a sign from heaven to test Jesus  Not miracle = “dynamis” but “sign” a different word  Confirmation from heaven that He was the Son of God.  Jesus Himself was “the” sign from heaven that He was God  Pharisees asked question in willful unbelief. They are left to their judgment and condemnation  Luke 19:41  Jesus weeps over Jerusalem  “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.” | 6  V. 14  Disciples realize they forgot to take bread  -If only we asked Jesus to create some bread to go  for us!  They are likely annoyed and worried.  Hello?! Jesus is with them! He is sufficient  Jesus aware of situation. Decides to use “bread” as object lesson  V. 17 “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”  Leaven/yeast of Pharisees=false doctrine and legalism  -Man made traditions  -Sucked joy, life, and freedom out of Christ  Leaven of Herod=Gross immorality and friendship with world |
| 7  Herod family=evil, wicked, immoral  -Incest, murder, greed, to name a few  Internal impurity masquerading as righteousness  External impurity and blatant disregard for all morals  -life of indulgence and self-gratification  In other words: legalism and antinomianism (against the law)  “the sword of the foe has never done such damage to the cause of truth as the tongue and pen”  Leaven/yeast starts off slow but ends up infecting whole bread. It is subtle  Subtle things = most dangerous  Being a “worldly” Christian is a subtle but dangerous place to be | 8  When affections are divided between Christ and things of this world it is subtle like leaven  When you hear theology that sounds mostly right but has worldly philosophies and ideologies mixed in, it is subtle like leaven  When you allow certain sins that are not obvious to people slide in your life, it is subtle like leaven  You must watch out for subtleties in life whether doctrinally or practically that can hinder or destroy your walk with the Lord  Frog in boiling water illustration  So sin and false doctrine will do that to you  Antinomians believe you are set free to do anything you want.  -I am saved by grace…therefore I can do whatever I  want. |
| 9  Paul knew people would abuse grace and use grace as license to sin  Rom. 6:1  “Shall we sin that grace may abound? “By no means!”  In other words, God’s grace will be more magnified if I keep on sinning!  Do you use grace as a license to sin?  -Twisted logic  Jesus’ reply fell on deaf ears for they are still squabbling in V. 16  Jesus rebukes them V. 17  “Why do you discuss the face that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?”  Then Jesus quotes Isaiah “Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?” | 10  And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?  V. 19 “twelve”  V. 20 Recalls 4000 incident  V. 21 Reiterates same question: “Do you not yet understand?”  Disciples don’t realize that their quibbling reveals that the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod is already spreading within them.  V. 22 Jesus comes to Bethsaida  Crowds bring blind man and similarly implore Jesus to touch him  Jesus spits in man’s eyes and lays hands on him  Jesus: “Do you see anything?” |
| 11  V. 24 Man looks up and says,  “I see men, for I see them like trees walking around.”  Man has murky unclear vision.  Jesus puts hands on him second time and this time vision is perfect.  Jesus sends him home and tells him not to enter village  Both accounts is a little bit unusual, especially double take of healing. These healings are not in Matthew and Luke  Why did Jesus need to put his hand twice over man?  -Insufficient power?  -Messed up?  Obviously more than meets the eye  Of course Jesus has infinite power and ability to heal | 12  No accident that this comes after disciples failing to see and understand Jesus.  Jesus is trying to tell disciples that they are like this blind man, unable to see.  Through what Jesus will progressively reveal, they will come to see but with murky vision.  -Peter declaring “You are the Christ” but not really  understanding fully what that means  After cross and resurrection, disciples will see clearly  Jesus’ hands will come over them a second time in death and resurrection  Like deaf and mute man=disciples  Like blind man=disciples  They will see eventually, only a matter of time |
| 13  Example of murky vision to clear vision:  Luke 22:31-34  “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”  How about you? Do you see Jesus clearly?  Are you like the Pharisees, possess eyes and ears but are refusing to see and hear? Willful unbelief?  Jesus is going to hand you over to your condemnation and judgment | 14  Or are you like disciples who see Jesus but don’t quite get why’s He’s so important or so worthy of all glory, honor and praise  Disciples have myopic vision. Only see what’s right in front of them but they don’t get the big picture  Mark is saying to hear and see Jesus is a gift of God, not of yourselves.  You are like the blind and deaf man, wandering aimlessly through darkness  -Unable to hear voice of God  -Only by God’s enabling can you see and hear  If you have not given your life then Scriptures say of you:  “god of this world, Satan, has blinded your mind so that you will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. |
| 15  Eph. 4:17-18  “you are darkened in your understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in you, because of the hardness of your heart.”  But Jesus came into the world so that you would come into the light  Jn. 12:46  “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”  If you trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior (explain that)  then you will be a new creation  Salvation is so incredible it is like creation: | 16  2 Cor. 4:6  “For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”  Jesus will put his hand over your eyes and enable you to see Him in all His glory and beauty  Eph. 5:14  “Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.” |