

## Mark 8:14-21

### Jesus Overcomes His Disciple's Spiritual Dullness

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### Jesus Warns About The Leaven Of Unbelief

Mark 8:14-15 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

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### The Leaven Of The Pharisees And Herod

Mark 8:11 The **Pharisees** came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him.

Luke 23:8 **Herod** was very glad when he saw Jesus... because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him.

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**Will The Disciples Share In This Leaven?**

Mark 8:16-18 They began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? **Do you not yet see or understand?** Do you have a hardened heart? HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? And do you not remember?

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**Jesus Challenges The Disciples**

Mark 8:19-21 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven." And He was saying to them, "**Do you not yet understand?**"

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**Application**

1. We must understand that God is sovereign over the hard hearts of men, but men are still culpable.
2. We must understand that with greater revelation comes greater responsibility.
3. We must devote ourselves to the means of grace for protection against "forgetting" the Lord's work on our behalf.

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**1. God Is Sovereign Over Hard Hearts**

John 12:37, 40 But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.. “He” has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not look with their eyes, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.”

Romans 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

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**1. Man Is Culpable For A Hard Heart**

James 1:13-14 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and **He Himself does not tempt anyone**. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Hebrews 3:7-8 ESV ...the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness...”

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**2. Greater Revelation = Greater Responsibility**

Mark 6:52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

Luke 10:23-24 Turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.”

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**2. Greater Revelation = Greater Responsibility**

Hebrews 2:2-4 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?** After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

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**3. The Importance of Remembering**

Mark 8:18 Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?

Exodus 13:3 Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place..."

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**3. Devotion To the Means of Grace**

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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### 3. God's Word Enables Us To Remember

2 Peter 1:3-4, 13 His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and **magnificent promises**, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder...

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### 3. Fellowship Enables Us To Remember

Hebrews 3:12-13 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But **encourage one another day after day**, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

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