



Part 4 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

As we finish up our series on “I Heard” this week, Jeremy shared with us the truth that for our words to give life, we have to know the life giver. That life giver is Jesus Christ. Do you know Him? Not know of Him but truly know Him for who He is?

We have all had the experience of having a conversation with someone and then come to find out that person didn’t really hear what we said. They might can tell us the words that we used but they didn’t really hear what we meant.

Many times in His earthly ministry Jesus experienced the same thing. The people around Him just did not “hear” what they should have.

Have you had that experience when someone (spouse, children, coworker, etc) you were communicating with just did not hear what you meant? How did it make you feel? If you are in a group setting, share the experience.

Into the Word:

The Book of Mark is like a “greatest hits” gospel of Christ. Mark even opens it by saying “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God . . .” and what follows is a series of stories about the deeds of Jesus. We hear of healings, demons being cast out, thousands fed, miracle after miracle and parable after parable. It’s like a great action-adventure movie.

Lots of opportunities for those that are experiencing these events first hand to “get it”. To know who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish.

Read Mark 8:1–21

The events describe how Jesus had miraculously fed more than 4000 people. That was only a few days after He had fed over 5000!

This passage reveals two types of people that, even though they were seeing Jesus with their own eyes, did not hear Him. The first was the Pharisees. They refused to see and hear Jesus for who He was because they felt that God would announce to them especially the arrival of the Messiah. This Jesus was not their idea of how the Messiah would be acting.

How do you explain the reaction of the Pharisees to the feeding of the 4,000? (Look back at verse 2, would the Pharisees have had a true understanding of Jesus’ motivation?)

In what ways were the attitudes and actions of the Pharisees like yeast? (What do you know about how yeast affects the things it comes in contact with?)

What pharisee-like attitudes could keep us from knowing the true Jesus?

The disciples represented the second type of people that do not know or hear Jesus for who He is. They are the people that cannot see the forest for the trees or those people that smile and nod when they hear something but have no idea that they are the ones that need to hear it.

They had been with Jesus. They heard His words. They had just seen not one but two miracles in which bread had been in over abundance and plentiful when it should not have been. They didn't realize this was a calling card identifying Jesus. They had no clue that the Bread of Life was in their boat.

Why did Jesus remind the disciples about the leftovers from the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000? What did he want them to see? (Compare this to the passage from John 6 that Jeremy shared with us.)

Apply The Word

Two types of people that did not "know" the Savior as they should have. One group putting their own expectations on Him for how He should be and act. One that still did not understand who He was and why He had come. Can you imagine the frustration and concern in Jesus' words as He said, "Do you still not understand?"

If we are to have words that bring life, we must know the life bringer.

If Jesus asked you directly, "Do you still not understand?" what issue would He be addressing?

- *I'm still looking for a sign of his presence and power.*
- *I'm still worried about "a loaf of bread" when I know Jesus has infinite power to meet my needs.*
- *I see the historical Jesus when I read the Bible, but I still don't really know him as my savior and sustainer.*
- *I know Jesus, but I don't yet know as I ought to know (see 1 Cor. 8:2).*
- *I trust Jesus in most areas of my life, but I'm still holding on to . . .*

Set aside time alone this week to read all of Mark 8 and to ask God to reveal Himself more truly and more fully to you. Think about any expectations you have about Jesus that are untrue or are merely too low. Ask Him to remove any blinders from your eyes that have kept you from seeing him for who he is.