

JESUS FEEDS FOUR THOUSAND

1. Read Mark 8:1-10. What is the important message of this miracle?
2. Why seven loaves and seven baskets?

PHARISEES

3. Read Mark 8:11-21. Why did the Pharisees ask for a “sign from heaven”?
4. Why is it important that faith is not based on proof?
5. In this context, can you define the “leaven of the Pharisees”?

GAINING SIGHT IN STAGES

6. Read Mark 8:22-26. Look again at 7:31-37 and the healing of the deaf and mute man. Note parallels in the 2 miracles.
 - A. Both men are _____ by others
 - B. They _____ to touch their friend
 - C. The man is _____—Messianic secret
 - D. Jesus’ _____ applied to the _____ body parts (tongue/eyes)
 - E. Jesus places _____ on the man
 - F. Their bodies _____ properly
 - G. _____ are made—tell no one/do not enter village
7. Reread Isaiah 35:5-6. What again is the theological emphasis of this miracle?

8. Unlike the healing in chapter 7, this healing does not go smoothly (completed in 2 stages). Why?

WHO IS JESUS

9. Read Mark 8:27-30. The people had various opinions about who Jesus was. Most did not understand the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah or his kingdom. Because of the humble way he acted, the people did not consider him to be the Son of God. Nevertheless, some saw the matter clearly. Whom did Peter confess Jesus to be.
10. The word “Christ/Messiah” literally means “The Anointed One”. When Peter calls Jesus **THE** Anointed One, we are pointed to Psalm 2:2, 6. Who is this Anointed One? Read Mark 15:32 to confirm this understanding. Peter is perhaps thinking specifically of Psalm 72. Note that verses 1, 12-13 describe Jesus’ activity.
11. The reader is also perhaps pointed to Zechariah 9:9. Read this verse and comment on its importance especially in light of what the people proclaim in Mark 11:10.
12. Read Matthew 16:16. Why do you think Mark leaves off the phrase: “Son of the living God”? Read Mark 15:39 for the answer.

NOTE: Since Jesus admonishes the disciples to silence and does not correct Peter, we can understand that Peter gives to correct answer. So, Peter does see—he does “get it”. From the standpoint of this narrative, he seems to have gone from partial sight (“who then is this...?” 4:41) to clear sight (“You are the Christ” 8:29)—a manifestation, as it were, of the metaphor of the blind man healed in 2 stages in 8:22-26.