

Mark 8:1-10  
Strong Service Needs Strong Vision  
6/26/22

**ILL:** **Helen Keller** was blind and deaf from the age of **2**. But w/ therapy, she became able to speak, and as an adult, she became a world-famous **advocate** for the disabled. Now, one day a **Boy** asked her, "Isn't it the worst thing in the world to be blind?" Keller answered, "**Not half so bad as to have 2 good eyes and see nothing<sup>i</sup>.**"

RN: Isn't there more than **1** way to be **blind**? Can't we be mentally, emotionally, and spiritually blind, too? And, how does this kind of blindness **shape** our souls? **If** our souls are blind, Then, how can we regain our ability to see God?

AN: Our souls as well as our eyes can be blind, and this kind of spiritual blindness can warp and defeat our service to Jesus. But, repentance and honest trust in Jesus can restore our spiritual sight and sometimes our physical sight, too.

**BI:** We can balk at serving Christ, b/c we lack a strong **vision** of His identity, so the stronger our vision of Jesus, the stronger our service to Him. **Please turn in your Bibles to Mark 8:1-9.**

- I. Today, we'll see what Jesus **tells** His **12** to do w/ the **Crowd**.
- II. And, we'll see Who hosts **another** miraculous **Luau**.
- III. Finally, we'll see when Jesus' **12** get to pick up **7 miracles**.

**Strong service needs strong vision. [PRAY] (Pr 29:18)**

*In (8:1-30), Mark shows us a number of events that repeat the events and teachings of (6:32-7:37). And, besides restating the Jesus' identity and mission, Mark is showing us how hard it is for Jesus' Followers to really get Who He is and what He's doing.*

(TRN) In (1-4), Jesus tells His **12** to feed the hungry Crowd.

**Mark 8:1-4 (NASB95)** <sup>1</sup> *In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and said to them,* <sup>2</sup> *"I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat.* <sup>3</sup> *"If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a great distance."<sup>4</sup> *And His disciples answered Him, "Where will anyone be able [to find enough] bread here in [this] desolate place to satisfy these people?"**

**(1-3)** Again, while Jesus ministers in a deserted part of the Decapolis region, another mixed Crowd of Jews and Gentiles gathers to hear Him. And, they stay for **3** days.

A. Now, at the end of this **3-day period**, Jesus sees that most of the Crowd is growing very weak due to hunger.

1. IOW, what Jesus' ministry has been **more vital** to them **than food**. **READ THAT** Jesus feeds a **far deeper hunger** in their souls. And, they can't get enough.

B. For them, God is no longer menacing or unknowable. Instead, God is near and dear, and His love casts out all fear (1 Jn 4:18).

1. Many of these Jews and Gentiles have discovered that Jesus gives them a newfound sense of **Forgiveness, Hope, Renewal, Value, and Destiny**.

C. And, as such, many of these Jews and Gentiles begin to get a little taste of the **KOG**. And, that little taste comes from Trusting in Jesus.

1. **John 6:35 (NASB95)** <sup>35</sup> *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."*

2. IOW, Jesus satisfies our deepest yearnings as no one or nothing else can, b/c He gives us Eternal Life and the sense that He's sustaining it **in us** everyday.

D. And, here's another **key** Truth—Jesus cares about the Crowd's physical well-being, too. He sees that some of them are weak from hunger, so He doesn't want to send them away starving, b/c they might faint on their way home.

1. IOW, Jesus not only sustains our souls, but He also sustains our humanity: spirit, **and** body. Jesus doesn't hate the body as some people teach.

E. No, He looks at our bodies and says that they're good, b/c He created them. Our bodies are so good in fact, that **1** day He will change them to live in eternity w/ Him.

1. Righteous Job: **Job 19:25–27 (NASB95)** <sup>25</sup> *"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth."* <sup>26</sup> *"Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God;"* <sup>27</sup> *"Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!"*

2. IOW, ancient Believers like Job know that **1** day God will **release** their bodies from death's grasp.

3. John the Apostle: **1 John 3:2 (NASB95)** <sup>2</sup> *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

4. IOW, the men who walk w/ Jesus knew that **1** day Jesus will release our bodies from death's grasp and, then, change them to be **like His**.

F. Now, Jesus sees that many people have come from some distance, so it would be cruel and dangerous to send them away w/out a good meal under their belts.

1. So, Mark says that Jesus has compassion for them. And, this **verb** comes from an ancient Greek noun, which means the vital organs like the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the liver of a sacrificial animal.

2. And ancient worshippers eat these organs to identify w/ their sacrifices. But, over time, this Greek noun comes to mean being moved w/ deep **Pity or Compassion**.

G. So, what Jesus feels here is a gut-wrenching Compassion for a Crowd made up of whole lot of Gentiles and a tiny number of Jews, b/c He **identifies** w/ them.

1. Jesus identifies w/ their **need** for a Savior, He identifies w/ their **yearnings** for God, and He identifies w/ their need to **overcome** death, b/c He will be **the** perfect sacrifice that grants them unlimited forgiveness, spiritual adoption, and Eternal Life.

2. IOW, a powerful Compassion for a bunch of Gentiles who have no claim on His mercy stirs Jesus way, down, deep inside. And as such, Jesus shows us that God's Grace, Mercy, Love, Compassion, and Help is for **everyone** who Trusts in Him.

H. Now, Jesus alerts His **12 Apostles** to size up the Crowd's need for food. And, their response is highly instructive.

**(4) Jesus' 12 say, "So, Jesus, where are we going to get enough chow to feed all of these hungry people in a deserted place like this?"**

A. IOW, Jesus' **12** have just seen Him feed **20,000** men, women, and children at **Bethsaida Julius**, but His **12** still **don't get** what Jesus is trying to tell them.

1. Jesus is saying—**"Roll up your sleeves, Boys, another miraculous Luau is on the way!"** But, His **12** respond w/ questions, confusion, and especially blindness.

2. IOW, instead of seeing Jesus as the conduit of all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places, His **12** zero in on **their** inability, not **His** character or His resources.

B. A **real and active** vision of Who Jesus **is** and what Jesus **can do** through us **bridges** the gap b/t who we are and what Jesus calls us to do.

1. IOW, when we see that Jesus will get **His will** done through us, then our shortcomings and the real or imagined giants who guard them don't look so deficient or so monstrous after all.

2. When we see that Jesus is **the Divine Son of God** Who subdues all God's enemies, then all Life's **musclebound Goliaths** look like **shriveled little Smurfs**.

3. When we see that Jesus is **the Divine Savior of the World**, bridging the abyss b/t God and us w/ His body and blood, then our dirt road Faith transforms into a superhighway Faith to God.

4. When we see that Jesus is **the Divine Christ**, fulfilling all prophecy that brings the KOG into reality, then all our inabilities look like vapors disappearing in the wind.

C. IOW, when we finally see Jesus high and lifted up, w/ His train filling Heaven's Temple, then we can also see that nothing alive or dead, angelic or demonic, human or animal can stop the will of God in us and through us.

**D. ILL:** *CONTEXT: Rome has imprisoned John on Patmos and on Sunday he suddenly experiences the beginning of a mighty vision. [John] Revelation 1:12–18 (NASB95)*<sup>12</sup> ***Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me.***

***And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;<sup>13</sup> and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.***

***<sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>6</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.***

***<sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,<sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."***

**E. APPL:** ***If*** we have an **accurate** vision of Who Jesus **is** and what He **does, then** He can bridge the gap b/t our deficiencies and what He calls us to do.

We must zero in on Jesus' **identity**, b/c Strong service needs strong vision.

(TRN) In (5-7), Jesus hosts a another **miraculous Luau**.

Mark 8:5–7 (NASB95) ***<sup>5</sup> And [Jesus] was asking them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."<sup>6</sup> And He directed the people to sit down on***

*the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people. <sup>7</sup> They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well.*

(5-7) Jesus telegraphs what He's going to do as He asks His **12 Apostles** how many **French rolls** they have. Hello? Is anybody listening? And, His **12** skeptically tell Jesus that they have **7 French** rolls.

A. Again, Jesus' Apostles don't see this extremely **key** fact: The **same** Person Who fed Israel in the wilderness is standing right next to them. So, if He wants to feed this Crowd, then this Crowd will get fed, too.

1. IOW, His **12** still don't really get this Truth: Jesus, **the Divine Christ**, can turn these rolls into a holy Luau able to feed many **1000s**.

B. So, Jesus tells everybody to sit down. Then, He takes the **7** French rolls, and looks up to God, b/c He's thanking God for all that He's about to provide.

1. And, Jesus prays the regular Jewish dinner blessing: "**Praise be to You, Oh Lord our God, King of the world, Who makes bread to come forth from the earth, and Who provides for all that You have created (Str-B 1.685).**"

C. Then, Jesus breaks the French rolls. And, His **12** plus some volunteers start to pass them out, and pass them out, and pass them out.

D. A little bit later, Jesus' **12** come up w/ some **sardines**. So, Jesus blesses God for the sardines, and He divides them, too. And, His **12** plus some volunteers start to pass them out, and pass them out, and pass them out.

E. And as such, Jesus' miracle Luau again shows that He is **the Christ**: **Isaiah 25:6-8 (NASB95)** <sup>6</sup> *The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, [and] refined, aged wine.* <sup>7</sup> *And on this mountain, He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.* <sup>8</sup> *He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.*

1. IOW, this miracle pictures the **Millennial** feast that **the Christ** will host for His blood-bought, sanctified, and glorified people.

**F. ILL:** A Christian had been a **drunkard** for many years, but Christ radically transformed his life. Several months afterwards, **1** of his **doubting** friends decided to

test him. So, his skeptical friend challenged the transformed Christian to explain exactly how Christ had changed water into wine.

The transformed Christian answered, **"I don't know how or why Christ changed the water into wine. I only know that He did something more useful w/ me: He took me off the street and changed my beer into furniture".**"

**G. APPL:** The same Person Who created the universe, fed the **20,000**, and raised the dead is standing w/ us, so **if** Jesus wants to use us, **then** our deficiencies **don't matter**.

**Our inabilities don't matter, b/c Strong service needs strong vision.**

(TRN) In (8-10), Jesus' **12** pick up **7** miracles.

**Mark 8:8–10 (NASB95)** <sup>8</sup> *And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces.* <sup>9</sup> *About four thousand were [there]; and He sent them away.* <sup>10</sup> *And immediately He entered the boat with His disciples and came to the district of Dalmanutha.*

**(8-9a)** Soon, everybody's so full that they'll pop if they have another fish sandwich, **hold the tartar sauce**. IOW, Jesus again provides a satisfying, lavish, holy Luau.

A. Mark uses the **Greek adjective** for **4,000** to show that this Crowd is a mixed Crowd of mainly Gentile and some Jewish men, women, and children. So, this Crowd is much smaller than the Crowd that Jesus fed at **Bethsaida Julius**.

B. But, this holy Luau is still so lavish that His **12** can collect **7** big rope baskets full of French rolls and sardines. And, Christ has **2** reasons for making His **12** do this:

**1)** Jesus makes His **12** collect the leftovers to show them **again** in no uncertain terms what He can do **despite** of their hard hearts. **READ THAT** Jesus can multiply **7** French rolls and a few sardines enough to feed several **4,000** hungry people.

**2)** He makes His **12** collect leftovers **again** to show them that someday **they** will feed this hungry World w/ the **Bread of Life's** abundance.

C. IOW, **again**, Jesus is the Hero of this story, not His **hardheaded, hardhearted, and hardhanded 12** Apostles. And as such, this miracle zeroes in on the fact that Jesus is **God in the flesh** and the **Savior of Gentiles**, too—

1. And as such, Jesus is the **Good Shepherd** come to care for us Gentiles— Truthfully, Wisely, and Generously (**Jn 10:11**).

2. What's more, Jesus is **the Divine Christ** come to save us Gentiles from the **wrath** of God, the **slavery** of sin, and the **hatred** of the devil (1 Jn 3:8).

3. And finally, Jesus is **the Divine Host** Who invites us Gentiles to the **Great Wedding Supper of the Lamb**, when every Believer from every age will celebrate God's victory over the World, the flesh, and the devil (Rv 19:5-9).

4. And then, b/f Jesus Christ, **the Divine Christ, the Son of God, and the Savior of the World**, His compassion will satisfy, refresh, and inspire us for eternity.

**(9b-10)** Jesus sends the Crowd away, blessed and burping. And, He and His **12** set sail for **Dalmanthua**, a region near the city of **Tiberias**, on the **W** side of the **Sea of Galilee**. *And the story continues . . .*

**A. ILL:** *CONTEXT: Jesus curses a fruitless fig tree to show what will happen to Israel for rejecting Him and to show the power of Trusting Him. Matthew 21:18-22 (NASB95)*

**<sup>18</sup> Now in the morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. <sup>19</sup> Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, "No longer shall there ever be [any] fruit from you." And at once the fig tree withered.**

**<sup>20</sup> Seeing [this], the disciples were amazed and asked, "How did the fig tree wither [all] at once?"**

**<sup>21</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. <sup>22</sup> "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."**

**B. APPL:** Through **Jesus'** character and ability we can feed this hungry World w/ the **Bread of Life's abundance** despite our deficiencies.

Jesus binds His will to life through us, so Strong service needs strong vision.

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<sup>i</sup> "LiveToday," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

<sup>ii</sup> "Strong Evidence," Ibid.

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