### Mark

## Chapter 8

1Back in those days, there was another huge crowd [listening to him] that had nothing to eat. So [Jesus] called his disciples and said to them:  
  
 2‘I feel sorry for the crowd, because they’ve stayed here with me for the past three days, and now they”ve got nothing to eat.  
  
 3‘If I just send them home hungry, they may faint on the road! For some of them have actually come a long way.’  
  
4But his disciples asked:  
  
 ‘Where could anyone find enough loaves [of bread] here in this isolated place to satisfy that many people?’  
  
5So he asked them:  
  
 ‘How many loaves do you have?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Seven.’  
  
6Then he told the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and handed them to his disciples to serve… And they passed them out to the crowd. 7They also had a few little fish. And after offering a blessing over them, Jesus told [the disciples] to serve these also.  
  
8Well, everyone ate until they were satisfied, and when the disciples picked up the leftovers, [they filled] seven provision baskets with them, 9although [there were] about 4,000 who were fed!  
  
Then after that, he sent the crowd away, 10and he immediately got into the boat with his disciples and traveled into parts of DalmaNutha.  
  
  
  
11It was there that the Pharisees came up and started arguing with him, demanding that he give them a sign from heaven (so as to test him). 12But he breathed a deep sigh and asked them:  
  
 ‘Why is this people always looking for signs?  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: this people won’t be given a sign!’  
  
13And with that, he walked over and got back into the boat, and traveled on to the opposite shore!  
  
  
  
14Meanwhile, it so happened that [the Apostles] had forgotten to bring along any [bread] for the trip. So, except for one small loaf, they had nothing to eat in the boat.  
  
15As a result, when [Jesus] started warning them saying, ‘Keep your eyes open and watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees and the fermentation of Herod,’ 16they started quarreling with each other over the fact that they didn’t have any bread.  
  
17When [Jesus] recognized this, he asked them:  
  
 ‘Why are you arguing about not having any bread? Don’t you understand yet, and don’t you get the meaning? Are your hearts so dull when it comes to understanding?  
  
 18‘You have eyes; can’t you see?  
  
 ‘You have ears, can’t you hear?  
  
 ‘Do you remember when 19I broke five loaves [to feed] 5,000, and how many baskets full of leftovers were you able to pick up?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, twelve.’  
  
 20‘And when I broke the seven loaves [to serve] 4,000 men... [do you remember] how many provision baskets full of leftovers you picked up then?’  
  
And they said:  
  
 ‘Seven.’  
  
21So he asked them:  
  
 ‘Don’t you understand all of this yet?’  
  
  
  
22Well from there, they traveled on to BethSaida, where the people brought him a man who was blind, and they begged [Jesus] to just touch him. 23So he took the blind man by the hand and led him outside of the village, then he spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him and asked:  
  
 ‘Do you see anything yet?’  
  
24And the man looked up and said:  
  
 ‘Yes, I see men… They look a little like trees, but they’re walking around.’  
  
25So [Jesus] laid his hands on the man’s eyes a second time, and after that, the man started seeing better. And before long, [his eyesight] was completely restored and he was able to see everything clearly!  
  
26So [Jesus] sent him home with the warning:  
  
 ‘Don’t go back into that village.’  
  
27Well from there, Jesus and his disciples traveled on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.  
  
And as they were on the way, he asked his disciples:  
  
 ‘Who are the people saying that I am?’  
  
28And they replied:  
  
 ‘[Some say you’re] John the Immerser, others say you’re EliJah, and yet others say you’re one of the Prophets.’  
  
29Then he asked:  
  
 ‘But whom are you saying that I am?’  
  
And Peter answered:  
  
 ‘You’re the Anointed One.’  
  
30Then he ordered them not to say this to anyone.  
  
31And that’s when he started teaching them that the Son of Man would have to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, Chief Priests, and Scribes, and then be killed… But after three days, he would arise. 32Yes, he told them plainly [what was about to happen to him].  
  
But at that, Peter took him aside and started scolding him. 33Then [Jesus] turned and looked at his disciples, and he started scolding Peter, saying:  
  
 ‘Get behind me opposer, because you aren’t thinking God’s thoughts, but those of men!’  
  
34Well after that, he called the crowd and his disciples to him and he said this:  
  
 ‘If any of you wish to be my disciples, [you’ll have to] deny your own desires, then pick up your impaling poles and keep on following me!  
  
 35‘For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever is willing to lose his life for my sake –and for the [sake of the] good news– will save it.  
  
 36‘What good would it do for a man to gain the whole world and still lose his life… 37And what would a man give in exchange for his life?  
  
 38‘Well, if anyone is ashamed of me and my words before this adulterous and sinful people, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he arrives in the glory of his Father with his holy messengers.’