

"Why are you talking about having no bread?"

A. Intro: *What is real?*

Matt 6:11 "Give us today our daily bread."

Eph 6:12 "our struggle is not against flesh and blood"

B. Sermon in a Sentence: *God's reality is the source of all reality.*

C. Context & Meaning of Mark 8:14-21

Having just faced the Pharisees' demand for yet another sign to use against him (Mk 8:11-13), Jesus takes his disciples north across the sea once again. On the way, the disciples' nearsighted focus on physical bread distracts them from grasping Jesus' warning about the "yeast" (spiritually dangerous attitudes and beliefs) of the Pharisees and Herod.

In this short passage, Jesus presses the disciples with a total of eight rapid-fire questions designed to nudge their Kingdom comprehension quotient. When Jesus asks them to quote the leftover amounts from each of his recent miraculous feedings of thousands, he is redirecting them once more to the Bread of Life already in their midst. It is remarkable that Jesus is so patient with them, and that only after his resurrection do they fully understand who he is. Conversely, it is noteworthy that Jesus graciously extends his patience to us as we often tune in more to physical data than spiritual realities. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear his truth today.

D. MARK 8:14-21

¹⁴The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

¹⁶They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."

¹⁷Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? ¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve," they replied.

²⁰"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"

They answered, "Seven."

²¹He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

E. Lessons to Embrace from Mark 8:14-21

1. Our words and reactions are clues to which reality we value most.
2. Spiritual insight comes from relationship, obedience, and daily faith in Jesus.
3. Jesus is VERY patient while we work this out in our journey with him.

F. LIFE APPLICATION STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS OR PERSONAL GROWTH

1. What questions does God repeat for you? What questions are you repeating for God? Why?
2. How have you experienced God's patient love for you?
3. Take a one day inventory of everything you do. Why and how do you do these things? Is God's reality or some other reality guiding you? How do you know?
4. Read Psalm 139 slowly and highlight in your journal the words or phrases God seems to be applying specifically to you.