

Study Guide

Mark 7:31-8:30

Theme- I must learn to fully rely on God by managing my perceptions.

1. Read Mark 7:31-37. In the healing of the deaf and mute Gentile man, what is the greater principle of ears being opened?
2. Read Mark 8:1-10. In the provision of bread, what is the greater need that we have?
3. Read Mark 8:11-13. In the desire for sign, what is the greater need the Pharisees have?
4. Read Mark 8:14-21. In the need for lunch, what is the greater need Jesus wants to teach his disciples?
5. Read Mark 8:22-26. In the need for eyesight, what is the greater need we have?
6. Read Mark 8:27-30. How does an understanding of who Jesus is, impact your life?
7. What is the danger of not fully relying on God?
8. Managing My Perceptions. Share a story of how a 'desolate place' has developed in you the understanding, that Jesus is all you need. Share an account of how through Scripture and prayer, God has allowed you to manage your perception of what you really need.

Message Slides

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I Need to Hear – Prophetic Miracle #1 (Mark 7:31-37)

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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1. Perception- I need to hear.
2. Reality- I need to hear Jesus!

I Need Food (8:1-10)

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ²“I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

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1. Perception- I need food!
2. Reality- I need Jesus!

“Man shall not live on bread alone, ...” (Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4)

I Need a Sign (8:11-13)

“The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. “And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” “And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

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Perception- I need a sign

Reality- I need Jesus

I Need Lunch (8:14-21)

“Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. “And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” “And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread.

The Teaching of Leaven

Leaven= Evil- permeates and puffs up!!

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1. Luke 12:1- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy!**

Reliance on self for righteousness

2. Matt. 16:6 & 11 – Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Reliance on self for life

3. Mk. 8:15- Beware of the leaven of Pharisees and leaven of Herod (linked)

Reliance on self for success.

I Need Lunch (8:14-21) cont.

“And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? “Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? “When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” “And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

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1. Perception- I need my lunch

2. Reality- I need Jesus

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I Need My Sight- Prophetic Miracle #2 (v.22-26)

²²And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. ²³And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

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Perception- I need my sight.

Reality- I need to see Jesus.

Conclusion:

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I Need Jesus (v.27-30)

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "**You are the Christ.**" ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

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Managing Our Perceptions

1. The Desolate Place! **(PIC of FROG in Desert)**

Mark 8:4

"How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?"

2. The Quiet Place

You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I don't have enough faith"	God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith	(Romans 12:3)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)