

What Just Happened?

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.



INTRODUCTION

Mark 8 talks about Jesus feeding the 4,000 and Jesus healing the blind man. Jesus gives a warning against prejudice. This chapter also shows Peter saying that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus says that He will be rejected by the elders, killed, and will rise again.

STARTER QUESTION

1. We have seen a lot of prejudice in the last couple of weeks with protests and riots. Other than racial prejudice, what other types of prejudice have you seen recently?

INTO THE WORD

2. What was the message that Jesus was trying to tell the disciples when He warned them about the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod in Mark 8:15?
3. In Mark 8, Jesus refuses to perform miracles for the Pharisees. Why do you think that was? Read Romans 1:20 and Psalm 19:1. Are miracles a prerequisite for faith? Why or why not?
4. Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God." Why do you think God specifically is asking us to love those who are foreigners, even though He gave us a commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves?

APPLICATION

5. After our hearts are transformed by Jesus, what can we as a church and as small groups do to bring reconciliation to our communities? How can we bring honor to everyone?
6. In what ways can you, as a follower of Jesus, help reconcile our society and spread the message of acceptance and love for everyone in the world?
7. We need to be attacking the problem, not the person. How are you doing this on social media? When we see others attacking the person, how should we as the church be responding?

PRAYER - Heavenly Father, I come to you today to thank you for the Word in Mark 8. It is very relevant to things that are happening in our world today. I know that the only thing that cures prejudice is a heart transformed by Jesus. Let us remember the warning that Jesus gave to be careful and watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees so we never let prejudice and hate enter our hearts. Teach us to love as You love. Everyone is worthy of that love. Lord, let us remember to deny ourselves and follow Jesus always. There is no benefit if I gain the world and forfeit my soul.

I pray for this world that is so full of anger, hate, and fear. Let them know that prejudice in any form is wrong and show that the only cure for prejudice is a heart transformed by Jesus. In this turbulent time, I pray for the police and everyone in every community in our great Nation. I pray for our leaders. Please give them the courage, grace,

and wisdom to make the right decisions. I pray for our church. I am thankful for Pastor David and the messages You give to him.

As I go into the world this week, please help me remember this sermon, Lord. Please help me grow and become more like Jesus. I want to reflect Jesus in the things I say and do. I pray that I am responsible for bringing more sheep to the flock. I also pray that I will always acknowledge Jesus and praise Him throughout my week with my words and actions.

In Jesus precious name,
Amen.