

March 19, 2017

**The Gospel of Mark**  
**“Following Jesus”**  
**Mark 7:31-8:26**  
**Pastor Kirk Gambrell.**

Vol. 7 Num. 12

## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

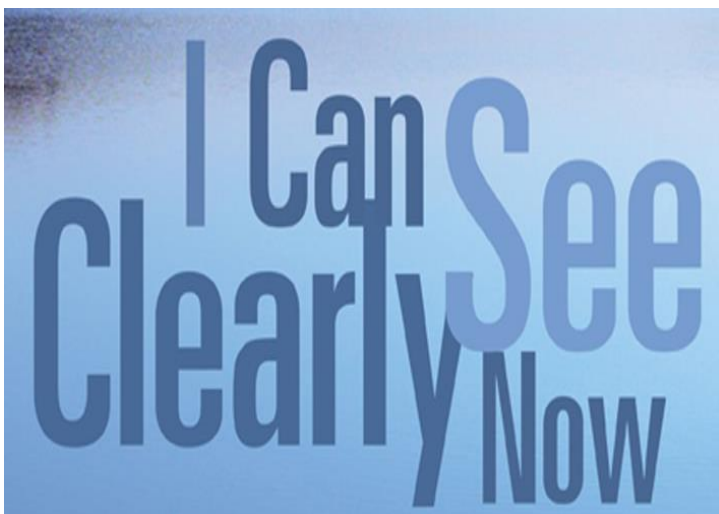
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In this week's passage, we see Jesus continue to perform incredible miracles in front of His disciples. He makes the deaf hear, the mute talk, and the blind see. He also feeds a large crowd with little food for the second time recorded in Mark. Jesus' disciples are continually amazed at the miracles, but are still struggling to understand the significance of them all. Following Jesus feeding the 4000, the disciples worry about not having enough bread with them. However, slowly but surely, the disciples gain the understanding that Jesus provides all they need, including life itself.



## Read Mark 7:31-8:26 (NET)

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus went out again from the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking, and they asked him to place his hands on him. <sup>33</sup> After Jesus took him aside privately, away from the crowd, he put his fingers in the man's ears, and after spitting, he touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then he looked up to heaven and said with a sigh, "Ephphatha" (that is, "Be opened"). <sup>35</sup> And immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue loosened, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone. But as much as he ordered them not to do this, they proclaimed it all the more. <sup>37</sup> People were completely astounded and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

8 In those days there was another large crowd with nothing to eat. So Jesus called his disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup> "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have already been here with me three days, and they have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup> If I send them home hungry, they will faint on the way, and some of them have come from a great distance." <sup>4</sup> His disciples answered him, "Where can someone get enough bread in this desolate place to satisfy these people?" <sup>5</sup> He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They replied, "Seven." <sup>6</sup> Then he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. After he took the seven loaves and gave thanks, he broke them and began giving them to the disciples to serve. So they served the crowd. <sup>7</sup> They also had a few small fish. After giving thanks for these, he told them to serve these as well. <sup>8</sup> Everyone ate and was satisfied, and they picked up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>9</sup> There were about four thousand who ate. Then he dismissed them.

<sup>10</sup> Immediately he got into a boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha. <sup>11</sup> Then the Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, asking for a sign from heaven to test him. <sup>12</sup> Sighing deeply in his spirit he said, "Why does this generation look for a sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to this generation." <sup>13</sup> Then he left them, got back into the boat, and went to the other side.

<sup>14</sup> Now they had forgotten to take bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> And Jesus ordered them, "Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod!" <sup>16</sup> So they began to discuss with one another about having no bread. <sup>17</sup> When he learned of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you arguing about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Have your hearts been hardened? <sup>18</sup> Though you have eyes, don't you see? And though you have ears, can't you hear? Don't you remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?" They replied, "Twelve." <sup>20</sup> "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?" They replied, "Seven." <sup>21</sup> Then he said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

<sup>22</sup> Then they came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to Jesus and asked him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and brought him outside of the village. Then he spit on his eyes, placed his hands on his eyes and asked, "Do you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> Regaining his sight he said, "I see people, but they look like trees walking." <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again. And he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Jesus sent him home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

**What does God MEAN?**

8. What is significant about Jesus making the deaf hear and the mute speak? Does this relate to other areas of scripture?

9. What is different about the way the disciples approached Jesus in this feeding miracle compared to the feeding of the 5000 in 6:35-37?

10. Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign? Why did He say there would be no sign given?

11. What was Jesus warning the disciples about in 8:15?

12. In 8:17-21, what did Jesus want them to understand about not having bread?

13. Why do you think there were two stages for the blind man to receive sight? He saw partially and then later was able to see fully?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

14. In this passage, Jesus provides for the daily needs of His followers. Has Jesus provided for your daily needs? In what ways?

15. When has Jesus' provision been a testimony in your life?

16. When has it been difficult to rely on Jesus to provide for you?

## **Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **SERMON NOTES**