

## **Perception is Everything (Mark 8: 11-21)**

- Two pictures are set before us in Mark 8:11-21: Unbelief & dullness of heart
- Pharisees were hardened in their hearts & demanding a sign from Jesus
- Their demand is a subtle temptation for Jesus to act independently of the Father
- Christ's response was dignified anger because of their wicked hearts of unbelief
- On the other hand, Christ was grieved by the dullness of the disciples here
- Mark sets before us dangerous perceptions: blindness of heart & dullness of heart

### **I. The Blindness of Jesus' Enemies (8:11-13)**

- After feeding the 4000, sailed back to Dalmanutha (likely close to Capernaum)
- There he was accosted by the Pharisees who wanted to see great signs (vs. 11)
- They already saw great signs they couldn't deny, so they said He was Beelzebub
- Yet they wanted a sign from heaven, something spectacular from the skies
- A diabolical repeat of Satan's temptation to give Christ the kingdoms of the world
- A temptation to take a path apart from the will of the Father. Jesus refused: 12, 13
- Jesus was angry "no sign will be given it" Matthew elaborates in 16:4
- The only sign they would get was that signified by Jonah, "the resurrection"

### **II. The Dullness of Jesus' Disciples (8:14-21)**

- The disciples were dull, that's for sure! Their minds were miles apart from Jesus
- He gives a spiritual warning, which they misinterpreted with a material mindset
- The miracle of the 4000 had little effect in bringing spiritual reflection
- The disciples forgot to bring bread, except for one loaf, "Be careful" Jesus warned
- 14-16 apart from Christ's agitation with the disciples in Gethsemane, His frustration with the 12 here is clear. Pharisees are blind but why didn't they see it?
- Jesus now explained by using a barrage of questions to whack them into reality
- Vs 17-20 "Why are you talking about having no bread?" Bang! "Do you not see or understand?" Bang! "Are your hearts hardened?" Bang!
- What about the 4000, how many loaves were there? 7 they answered. Bang, Bang
- Why were they so dull of heart? Familiarity with the Lord & His work
- The problem was that they were not appropriating what they learned (Matt 13:12)
- Jesus ended with a final question, do you still not yet understand? Is he our Bread?