



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Don't Forget the Bread

Date: July 7, 2024

Scripture Text: Mark 8:1-21

Notes:

There are many mechanisms people use to help them not forget things. Examples include paper notes, post-its, cell phone apps and 'Alexa'. In the Bible, memorization and repetition was used to help the Israelites not forget. They had prophets and festivals that were used as reminders of the mighty works of God. The purpose of those reminders was to remind the people of God's faithfulness and that He could be trusted. For us today, we need to find ways to not forget God's faithfulness and trustworthiness so that when times of trouble come, we know where we can turn. In today's passage we see Jesus' encouragement of the disciples to remember the miraculous things He had done and allow them to build their faith. Similarly, we are not to forget the things Jesus has done for us. *'Don't forget the Bread'*.

I. The Lesson (Mark 8:1-10)

This passage describes a large crowd who had been following Jesus. They had been with Him for three days and had eaten nothing. This is the second such occurrence where a large crowd had been listening to Jesus' teachings and found themselves in a deserted place with no food. This time was probably in an area called Decapolis which was primarily occupied by Gentiles. Like the first time, Jesus takes what was available, in this case 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish, and multiplies them to meet the physical needs of the crowd. They were filled (satisfied) and seven large baskets of leftovers were collected. This was an opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate His ability to care for His followers and they could trust Him. In Him they could have satisfaction and be sustained. Jesus was all they needed!

- What aspect of this story do you find most amazing? Why?
- Why is it relevant that there was more than enough to fill the crowd?
- How does Jesus' action show us He can be trusted for all our needs?
- The bread and fish the disciples had were not sufficient to meet the needs of the people. They needed Jesus' help to adequately meet the needs and the people be satisfied. How does Jesus meet our needs today?
- What are other ways people look to be satisfied other than in Jesus? Why?
- What are examples of Jesus meeting your needs and you being satisfied?
- How were your expectations exceeded by Jesus meeting your needs?
- How can Jesus meeting your needs be an encouragement for others?



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II. The Warning ([Mark 8:11-15](#))

Jesus leaves the 4,000 satisfied and sails to the western bank of the Sea of Galilee where He encounters some Pharisees who wanted to test Him, asking for a sign to prove He was the Messiah. Their expectation of what the Messiah would be was not accurate. This being the case, it wouldn't matter the sign, it wouldn't be what they were looking for, even if it accurately proved Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus leaves and heads to the northeast section of the sea. On their way He warns the disciples against the "leaven" (yeast) of the Pharisees and Herod.

- How would you describe what the leaven/yeast of the Pharisees and Herod was?
- What are examples of legalism and adding to scripture you might find today (like the Pharisees)?
- What are examples of immoral and humanistic practices today (like Herod)?
- How do we protect ourselves from these evil elements?

III. The Application ([Mark 8:16-21](#))

After Jesus' warning the disciples started discussing among themselves how they had no bread (they '*forgot the bread*'). The problem was they thought Jesus was talking about physical bread, but actually He was talking about spiritual bread, that which is eternal. Jesus reminds them of His work in feeding the 5,000 ([Mark 6:30-44](#)), and of the most recent feeding of the 4,000. The lack of bread should not be their focus. Jesus had already demonstrated His ability to provide for them. He needed them to focus more on the eternal.

- Why do you think the disciples had such a hard time understanding Jesus?
- Why is it so easy at times to get distracted by the temporary things around us and miss the eternal?
- What are examples temporary things? Eternal things?
- What are things we can practice to help us be more in tune with Jesus and eternal things?
- How can spending time daily in God's word, in prayer, and consistently connecting with His body the church help us stay focused where Jesus wants us?

Jesus is the Bread of life. Are you forgetting the Bread?

Don't forget the Bread: Jesus is all we need; He alone satisfies us and sustains us.