

The Gospel According to Mark

How Can They Be So Blind?

Mark 8:11-26



7/31/2022 AM

Introduction:

I. THE BLINDNESS OF THE PHARISEES (vs. 11-12)

A. Their Demand for a Sign (vs. 11)

“The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him...”

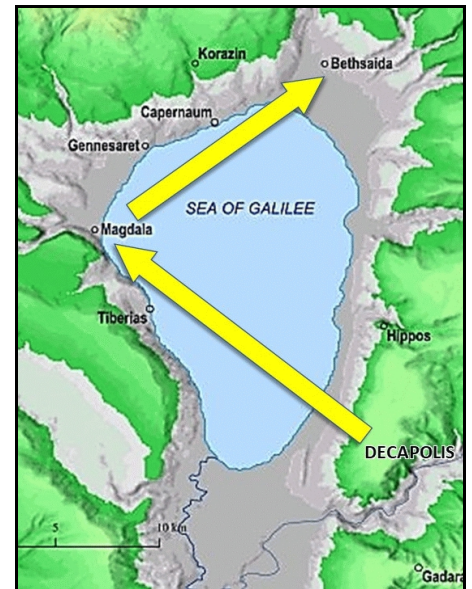
“seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him.”

B. Jesus’ Denial of a Sign (vs. 12)

“Sighing deeply in His spirit...”

“He said, ‘Why does this generation seek for a sign?’

“ ‘Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.’ ”



II. THE BLINDNESS OF THE DISCIPLES (vs. 13-21)

A. No Bread in the Boat (vs. 13-16)

“Leaving them, He again embarked and went away to the other side.”

“And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them.”

“And He was giving orders to them, saying, ‘Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.’ ”

“They began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.”

B. No Memory of the Miracles (vs. 17-20)

“And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread?’ ”

“ ‘Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?’ ”

“HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR?” (Deuteronomy 29:4)

“ ‘And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?’ They said to Him, ‘Twelve.’ ‘When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?’ And they said to Him, ‘Seven.’ ”

C. No Understanding as Yet (vs. 21)

“And He was saying to them, ‘Do you not yet understand?’ ”

III. BLINDNESS AS A METAPHOR (vs. 22-26)

A. A Partial Cure (vs. 22-24)

“And they came to Bethsaida.”

“And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him.”

“Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village...”

“and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, ‘Do you see anything?’ ”

“And he looked up and said, ‘I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around.’ ”

B. A Perfect Cure (vs. 25-26)

“Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.”

“And He sent him to his home, saying, ‘Do not even enter the village.’ ”

Conclusion:

Food for Thought:

- 1) What lessons can be drawn from Jesus’ refusal to give the Pharisees a sign?
- 2) Why do you think the subject of bread has received such prominence in chapters 6-8?
- 3) What was the purpose/lesson in the two-part healing of the blind man?
- 4) With an atlas, trace the geographical movement of chapter 8.