

Mark 8:14-21
“Spiritual Amnesia...”
4/25-4/26/04

Objective: Every person can fight spiritual amnesia by remembering three truths...

Opener: Top Ramen/Clothes Washer

*Noodles clung/stuck to everything/...spread/didn't take much to do a whole lot of damage...

*Jesus warns disciples...dangerous attitudes can spread/take root in our hearts and do a lot of damage...

*Chapter 8 begins...

*4,000 people, bread/fish, disciples/cross Sea of Galilee...

*Pharisees meet them, test/antagonize Jesus, denies, cross to other side...

*Pastor has taught us something very important about Mark...

*Sandwich book...the story within the story...Jesus is always doing the unexpected...

Read Mark 8:14-21 (pg #713)

*Passage begins with disciples forgetting to take the Bread...in a hurry...anxious about forgetting...

*Why was Jesus bringing up "yeast?"

*Bread was a basic, common food...

*Yeast is used to ferments/sour dough...didn't take much to spread throughout the dough...

*"Yeast" was a widely used metaphor in Jewish/Hellenistic culture...symbolic for evil or corruption (like "cancer" today)

*Disciples didn't get it...

*So what was the "yeast" of the Pharisees and Herod?

*Pharisees: Religious leaders of the day...

*Tithed, right clothes, church, name tags, leadership roles...looked very religious...(on outside--like us!)

*Their hearts were wrong...looking important, what people thought, etc...rules instead of righteousness...were hypocrites...prideful...

*Herod: Roman ruler of Galilee and surrounding area...

*Had everything/societal success...rich, influential, powerful...was "The Donald" in the region...

*"The Top Dog" in the Puppy Park

*His heart was wrong...worldly...corrupt...cruel...selfish, ...and was fear and despised by the people...

*Why the Strong Warning? Because pride and worldliness are insidious and destructive...

Ex: Genghis Kahn--12th century--conquered more of world than Napoleon, Hitler, Alexander the Great combined...-Shrewd, devious, deceptive in his methods of warfare...could conquer fortified cities with just a few men...

Bribe the gate keeper...just a few men could slip in and take over...

Pride and Worldliness bribe just like that...

Bribe the "gatekeeper of our hearts" by promising to meet our deepest needs...significance, self-worth

*Like noodles in a washing machine...a little yeast in bread...they spread, take over, do their damage...

Truth #1 Recognize...You Need to Guard Your Heart

How is your heart? Are you taking steps to guard it?

Read Mark 8:17-21

*So Why Were the Disciples Missing What Jesus Was Saying?

*Forgotten what they had just seen...suffering from "**spiritual amnesia**"...

* Jesus fed thousands of people...twice...with basketfuls and basketfuls left over...

*Loaf...symbol of Jesus' provision...reminder that Bread of Life was with them...they saw a reminder of their failure...

*How could they forget what had just happened?

*But... don't WE ALL do that sometimes?

*DO YOU EVER FORGET WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE?

*We can be a very forgetful people too...we can lose perspective...we begin to grumble...complain...feel abandoned...question God's love...His goodness...

*We begin to just see problems...and forget His provision...

*We get **spiritual amnesia**...we forget what God has done for us...

Truth #2 Remind Yourself...What God Has Done for You...

*Do you remind yourself of what God has done for you? Prayers answered? Situations where He has intervened?

--One of the greatest preventions for spiritual amnesia is to find a way to remember what God has done...diary, journal, telling others, etc.

*In fairness to the Disciples, there was a deeper problem than just their spiritual amnesia...

*They were missing the key truth Jesus was trying to communicate to them...here is the story within the story...

Ex: New Bible Companion (p. 500)

*In a sense, they were thinking **McDonald's**...Jesus wanted them to know He was **Messiah**...

*Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that was sufficient for all their needs...and wants us to understand that too...

Truth #3 Remember...He is Sufficient for All Your Needs...

Ex: Villager (House Burned Down)

*Many can relate to that...you're confronted with some significant hurts or struggles right now...

*You're in the eye of the storm...and there doesn't look like there's a way out...

*Sometimes we can become so consumed by our difficulties and struggles we lose perspective...

*We can become like the disciples...whose anxiety about the bread caused them to miss what Jesus was trying to teach them...

*Why we need to remember who we are in Christ...and what He promises us...

*Someone wise once said..."If God brings you to it, He'll bring you through it..."

Closing: God's Promises For You

God Is Sufficient...For All Your Needs

You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)

You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalms 91:15)

You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able (II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I FORGIVE YOU (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)

You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)

You say: "I'm anxious and stressed"

God says: Cast all your anxiety on ME (I Peter 5:7)

You say: "I'm so worried..."

God says: Do not worry (Matthew 26:25-27)

You say: "I don't have enough faith"

God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)

You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)

You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)