INTRODUCTION

• Jesus’ disciples were slow to recognize who He really was and the scope of His mission.

• He let His disciples spiritually grow at their own pace with some pointed criticism to make them think...OR, it makes one wonder if our Lord’s patience was wearing thin by this time in His ministry:
  
  • ‘Don’t you guys REMEMBER?’ 8:18
  • ‘Where are your eyes and ears?’ 8:18
  • ‘Do you have a hardened heart?’ 8:17
  • ‘Why are you so slow to understand?’ 8:17, 21
  • ‘How much longer am I going to be with you guys?’ 9:19

Passage

Feeding Four Thousand

• v2. The Lord’s compassion compelled Him to do something supernatural – to feed 4,000 of them

• BUT – Just like what He did for the 5,000, Jesus first healed EVERY ailment amongst them (blind, mute, lame, crippled, and many others) ... cf Mat 15:30

• How many were healed? Again, possibly thousands

• Would it include instantaneous healings for broken bones, spina bifida, amputations, Down Syndrome, terminal illness, and hang nails? Why wouldn’t it?

• Jesus was able to raise the dead after 4 days in the grave, so no other ailment would be any harder.

• Remember – Jesus performed countless other wonders too numerous to mention ........... John 21:25

Were there any kind of ailments Jesus could not heal?

• If you think about it, even if there was one type of ailment, sickness, deformity, or handicap Jesus could not heal, the Scribes & Pharisees would have jumped on that and said, “See, Jesus is not all powerful, so there is no way He can be our Messiah” – and they would have been correct.

• The only ones Jesus could not and did not heal were those who could not or did not come to Him or did not send someone on their behalf.

Lame vs Crippled

“cholos” vs “kullos”

A broken leg vs a missing leg

What is the difference between lame and crippled?

• Lame in Greek is “cholos,” while crippled is “kullos”

• The words are synonymous with subtle differences, but when used together Jesus seems to be invoking a play on words for emphasis – cholos & kullos

• Lame (cholos) seems to convey someone with a bum or broken leg while crippled (kullos) seems to convey someone missing a limb.

• Another Greek word used for “crippled” is “anaperos,” which conveys “injured or bereft of some body member.” Luke 14:13 states. “But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled <anaperos>, the lame <cholos>, the blind”

• IOW, Jesus healed amputees instantaneously. He even reattached a severed ear w/o stitches or anesthesia ..... Lk 22:51

• No wonder “multitudes” followed Him to “desert places”

Passage

Give Us A Sign

• vv11-12. Remember, Mark only gives us small snippets of information. He does not elaborate on hardly anything. When Mark states that the Pharisees argued with Jesus he sums up the essence of this engagement in only 2 verses. BUT this may have been quite lengthy banter going back & forth for an hour or more with Pharisees asking tons of questions and making snide remarks, & Jesus smartly replying back, stumping them, puzzling them, and infuriating them.

• However, this passage begs the question why Jesus did not give the Pharisees what they were asking for?

• After all, Jesus commands us to give to everyone who asks of us (Mat 5:42), so why didn’t He heed His own command – to give them a sign?

• Overriding Principle. We are also commanded not to give pearls to swine/fools/the wicked who would use it against us or for evil intent..... Mat 7:6

• vv13-21. Mark does reveal a few more bits & pieces of the Lord’s engagement with the Pharisees (v11) during His trip to Bethsaida with His disciples.

• v15. Jesus conveyed to His disciples that the foundational teachings – the leaven – of the Pharisees (the religious leaders) were not biblical, so many of their teachings would be messed up. 1. vv16-21. The disciples witnessed the Pharisees arguing w/ Jesus, but they were more concerned about eating than about heeding His warning.

• This prompted some stern criticism from Jesus

• What is wrong with you guys? Do you have a hard heart? Where are your eyes & ears to see & hear? Why don’t you get it?

• Essentially, Jesus was telling them this is not rocket science. They should be able to see & hear the dangers of Pharisaical teachings and how to challenge and contend with it.

2. Can we spot dangerous teachings at the foundational level of our own belief system, possibly of our church, or of our denomination?

• What would the results look like?

  □ No Fruit? □ No Growth? □ No Progress?

Now we know why the Lord looked forward to the Cross.

Heb 12:2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A Blind Man Healed with a 4-Step Process | • Principle to Live By. Guard your quiet time  
• Another Principle to Live By. To have JOY in your life, put Jesus 1st, Others next, Yourself last |
| Get Behind Me, Satan | Other Partners in Ministry |
| 8:22-26 | 9:38-41 |
| v26. Why would the Lord send the man home | • We will see people from many denominations in Heaven. ALL paths DO NOT lead to Heaven, but God uses people who have a heart to serve HIM regardless of an affiliation |
| vv43-48. Cut off or pluck out body parts to keep out of Hell. Of course, this is figurative language to convey how serious we should seek after Heaven. |
| • To Be First  
• Another Principle to Live By. To have JOY in your life, put Jesus 1st, Others next, Yourself last | • But are there any affiliations barred from Heaven?  
• Mormons?  
• Jehovah Witnesses?  
• Remember – It is sound doctrine that saves. 1Tim 4:16 |
| 8:27-33 | Go to the Extreme to Avoid Hell |
| v33. It is interesting the Lord waited to rebuke Peter till He turned and saw His Disciples looking on. Again, Jesus is big on object lessons. Why call Peter, Satan?  
• Consider this. Where is our focus in life? Is it on:  
□ Family?  
□ Friends?  
□ Spouse?  
□ Kids?  
□ Church?  
□ Work?  
□ Vacation?  
□ Retirement?  
□ Possessions?  
□ Reputation?  
□ Fishing?  
□ Other? Is it on □ God? If it’s not on God, call us, Satan. |
| 8:34-38 | 9:42-48 |
| • Deny Yourself & Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me  
• How do we deny ourselves? IOW, how do we put God first in all areas of life?  
• What is our Cross or our areas of responsibility?  
□ Obedience to God’s Word?  
□ Going to Church?  
□ Doing Good Works?  
□ Contending with Evil?  
□ …and how do we follow the Lord?  
□ Boldly?  
□ Passively?  
□ Only on Sundays  
• Luke sums it up this way, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”  
• How would we grade ourselves: A – B – C – D or F? |
| 9:1-13 | Be Salty |
| The Transfiguration | • Salt is a preservative, enhances flavor of food, and makes one thirsty for water  
• Spiritually then, we should be a preserver of society’s morals, portraying Christ in a favorable light, and make people thirsty for our Savior. How do we do this?  
• “Be at peace with one another” | 9:49-50 |
| v42. How does one cause a “little one” to stumble?  
• Example: Abused kids become abusive adults  
• vv43-48. Cut off or pluck out body parts to keep out of Hell. Of course, this is figurative language to convey how serious we should seek after Heaven.  
• Matthew conveys a positive perspective, ‘…upon finding a pearl of great value [i.e., Heaven], he sold all that he had and bought it’.  
• But, it is not peace or unity at all costs. We do not compromise with evil intent. A higher priority exists to protect the Lord’s sheep from harm. Rom 12:18 |
| “How much longer am I going to be with you guys?” | CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS |
| • In Chapter 6, Jesus gave the Apostles authority to heal everyone of everything, including demonic possession, so why was this demon in this boy different?  
• Jesus’ comment “O faithless generation, how much longer am I going to be with you” conveyed this should not have been hard to do. So, what did they miss?  
• Answer. They needed to take Praying more seriously |
| 9:14-29 | • As far as trying to contend with Pharisaical teachings in our own back yard, just remember, even Jesus could not turn things around. In fact, He got crucified for challenging the belief systems of His day.  
• But challenge, we must. Else we risk becoming like one of the 5 churches in Revelations whose “candlesticks” were ready to be put out by the Lord, Himself.  
• And, are we any less dense than the Lord’s disciples, or would we be just as exasperating and frustrating to work with – or worse?  
• To be saints who get it, who see & hear correctly, and do not have a hard heart, we must always “watch & pray” Mark 14:38 |
| 9:30-37 | NEXT WEEK: Mark 15. Easter Message. |
| To Be First – Be Last | • “I hear that Jesus can heal the lame, which is precisely the condition that I’m told prevents me from charming women.” |

I hear that Jesus can heal the lame, which is precisely the condition that I’m told prevents me from charming women.