

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

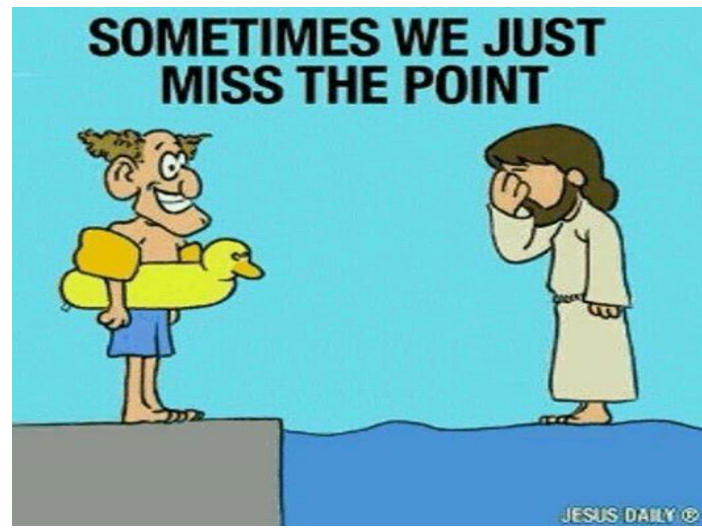
- 1) 03 Sep Mark 01 Introduced
- 2) 10 Sep Mark 02 Proclaimed
- 3) 17 Sep Mark 03-04 Questioned
- 4) 24 Sep Mark 05-06 Satisfies
- 5) 01 Oct Mark 07 Includes
- 6) 08 Oct Mark 08 Followed**
- 7) 15 Oct Mark 09 Strengthens
- 8) 22 Oct Mark 10 Serves
- 9) 29 Oct Mark 11-12 Clears
- 10) 05 Nov Mark 13 Returning
- 11) 12 Nov Mark 14 Willing
- 12) 19 Nov Mark 15 Sacrificed
- 13) 26 Nov Mark 16 Alive

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	Comments
Mark 8:1-10	<p>Feeding Four Thousand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) of 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 "kulos" A broken leg vs a missing leg	<p>What is the difference between lame and crippled?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lame in Greek is "cholos," while crippled is "kulos" • The words are synonymous with subtle differences, but when used together Jesus seems to be invoking a play on words for emphasis – cholos & kulos • Lame (cholos) seems to convey someone with a bum or broken leg while crippled (kulos) 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	Comments
8:11-21	<p>Give Us a Sign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ However, this passage begs the question why Jesus did not give the Pharisees what they were asking for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. vv16-21. The disciples witnessed the Pharisees arguing w/ Jesus, but they were more concerned about eating than about heeding His warning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This prompted some stern criticism from Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ 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 the dangers of Pharisaiical 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would the results look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No Fruit? <input type="checkbox"/> No Growth? <input type="checkbox"/> No Progress?



Now we know why the Lord looked forward to the Cross.
Hebrews 12:2

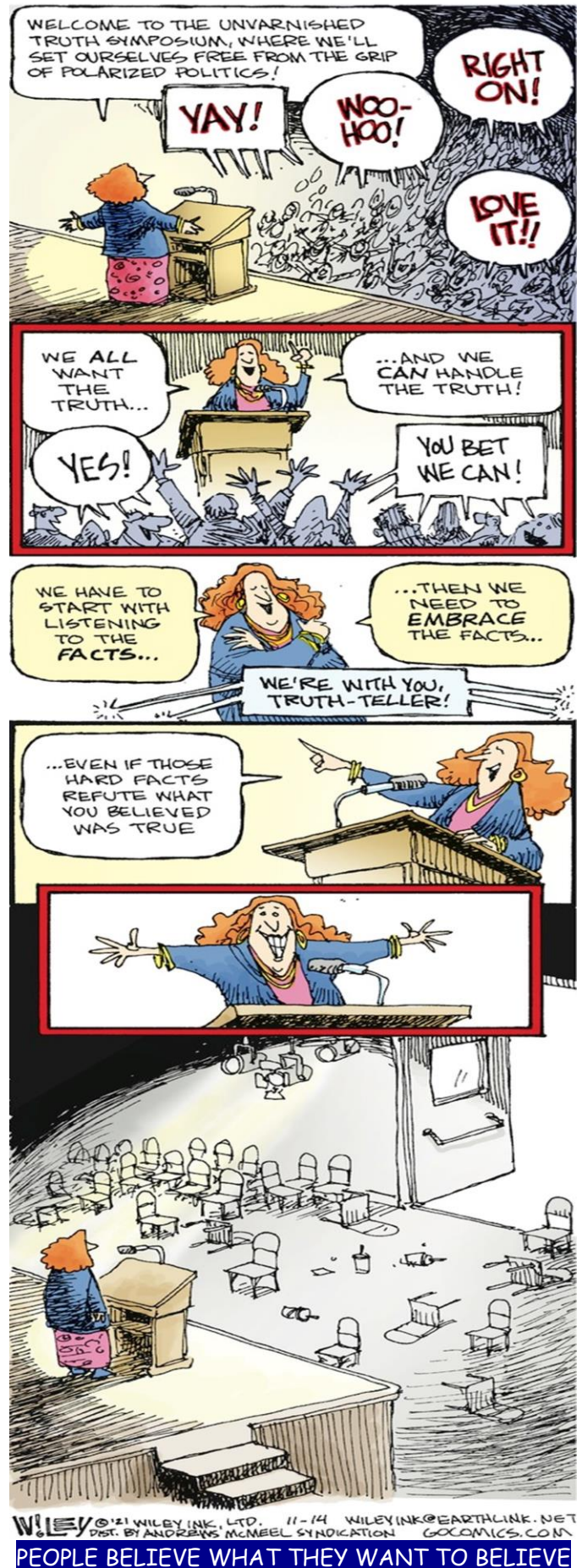
Passage	Comments
8:22-26	<p>A Blind Man Healed with a 4-Step Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus, 1st took the blind man out of town; 2nd He spat on the man's eyes; 3rd He laid His hands on the man, BUT the man did not see clearly; then, 4th the Lord again laid His hands on the man – and the man saw. Presumably, there were 2 healings required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus healed the man's eyes so he could see physically, but the man's brain was not able to interpret the images – "men were as trees" Jesus apparently resolved this anomaly with His 2nd touch. After all, even babies have to learn to interpret what they are seeing after being born Remember – Jesus is big on object lessons. This healing is recorded after the Disciples failed to fully comprehend what the Lord wanted them to grasp about the teachings of the Pharisees. Their eyes of understanding would be opened later..... Luke 24:45 v26. Why would the Lord send the man home the long way (avoid the village)? Probably to minimize His ever-growing notoriety. BUT, there may have been many other sick people there who needed the Lord's touch. Why would the Lord not have an interest to heal them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. Jesus' primary mission was not in healings, but in preaching the kingdom of God far & wide, for He was sent for that purpose." Luke 4:43
8:27-33	<p>Get Behind Me, Satan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. Where is our focus in life? Is it on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Family? <input type="checkbox"/> Friends? <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse? <input type="checkbox"/> Kids? <input type="checkbox"/> Church? <input type="checkbox"/> Work? <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation? <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Possessions? <input type="checkbox"/> Reputation? <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing? Or... is it on <input type="checkbox"/> God? If it's not on God, call us, Satan.
8:34-38	<p>Deny Yourself & Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience to God's Word? <input type="checkbox"/> Going to Church? <input type="checkbox"/> Doing Good Works? <input type="checkbox"/> Contending with Evil? ...and HOW do we follow the Lord? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Boldly <input type="checkbox"/> Passively <input type="checkbox"/> 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." Luke 14:26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would we grade ourselves: A – B – C – D or F?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- As far as trying to contend with Pharisical 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](#)

NEXT WEEK: Mark 9. We will see Jesus is still frustrated with His disciples ("How much longer am I going to be with you guys?"); there are times to keep secrets; and the ability to serve the Lord and help people out of the grip of Satan is not rocket science.

**NON SEQUITUR
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