

Home Group Notes

Mark 7:31-8:10 – Compassion

Here we get two miracles performed by Jesus. But, most of all, what we see again is the compassion that Jesus has for others.

1. What have you learned about Jesus in our studies of Mark's Gospel so far?
2. What examples of his compassion have you noticed?

Read Mark 7:31-37

3. The places in v31 are predominantly Gentile. Jesus is back in the region of the Decapolis. Contrast the crowd there in Mark 6:17 to the crowd now in this section. What does this tell us about Jesus' view of Gentiles?
4. There is a strong link in Greek between v32 and Isaiah 35:6. Why might this be significant?
5. The actions of Jesus in v33 appear to have little effect upon the miracle. So, why do you think he does these things for this man?
6. What 3 things does Jesus do in performing this miracle (v34)? In what ways are they significant?
7. The man is healed in 3 different ways? What are they?
8. How does v37 resonate with the creation story, as Jesus engages in this act of re-creation?

Seeing, hearing and understanding are only made possible by Jesus. Some, like the disciples, even though they are in close contact with Jesus, cannot 'see'. Some who are far away from the Jewish 'fold' can see, hear and understand. Only the touch of Jesus enable this.

9. What implications does this have for our witness to family and friends?

Read Mark 8:1-10

10. Some people argue that the feeding of the 4,000 is a retelling of the events of the feeding of the 5,000. How does v1 counteract that view?
11. How is the situation for the crowd different in v2 to that of 6:35?
12. Why does Jesus perform this miracle?
13. Why do you think the disciples might question how the 4,000 can be fed, after what Jesus did with the 5,000?
14. Do you think that the crowds are aware that a miracle has taken place?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for compassion for others we come across.
2. Pray for boldness in telling others about Jesus, while remembering that it is He who convicts and converts.
3. Pray for a simple, trusting faith in Jesus.