

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
006 - THURSDAY – AUGUST 8, 2024

WATCH OUT FOR BAD BREAD

Mark 8:11–13 (NKJV) “Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. (12) But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.” (13) And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.”

What approach by the Pharisees deeply disappointed Jesus?

There was already an attitude of prejudice against Jesus. The scribes accused Jesus of being filled with a demon. The multitude was disturbed by the treatment they saw being given to Jesus. Mark 3:20 (NKJV) “Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.”

Mark 3:21 (NKJV) “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.””

Why not demonstrate His divine power and convince these cavilers? The problem goes back to the end of Mark 3, where Jesus speaks of the sin against the Holy Spirit. If one’s ears are shut and eyes are closed, another miracle, even a sign from heaven, will not convince. It would just be dismissed like everything before. Even miracles are not enough to convince those determined not to believe.

Mark 8:14–21 (NKJV) “(14) Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. (15) Then He charged them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” (16) And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have no bread.” (17) But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened? (18) Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember? (19) When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” (20) “Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said, “Seven.” (21) So He said to them, “How *is it* you do not understand?””

What had the disciples forgotten, and what point did Jesus make from this?

The disciples have forgotten about the tenacious, vindictive spirit of the Pharisees and Herod. Jesus had to remind them that they were not dealing with people of hearts that are sincere.

THE DISTRACTIONS OF FOLLOWING JESUS:

1. **Spiritual Bread and Physical Bread are not synonymous:**

Isaiah 55:2 (NKJV) “Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.”

2. **Do not allow material possession to overshadow spiritual promises:**

Luke 12:15 (NKJV) “And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

3. **Do not change the order of spiritual prosperity:**

1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) “Now **Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain.**”

Distortion #1: Great Gain with Contentment is Godliness.

Distortion #2: Godliness with Great Gain is Contentment.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

4. **Beware of using religion to invalidate true discipleship:**

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV) “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **(22)** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **(23)** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Isaiah 8:16 (NKJV) “Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.”

Psalms 40:8 (NKJV) “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.””

JESUS WARNED OF THE DISTORTION OF THE GOSPEL BY OUTSIDERS:

Mark 4:10–12 (NKJV) (10) But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. (11) And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, (12) so that “Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.””

When the mind is not influenced by the Holy Spirit, it will be a hindrance to the gospel:

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV) “**(3)** But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **(4)** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

How can we learn to keep our hearts and minds open to the reality of God and to His love? Dwell on all the evidence that we have been given for God and for His love. At times, though, why does it seem so easy to doubt?