

“Another Basket Case”

Discussion Guide

TEXT: Mark 8:1-21

OPEN:

1. How did your parents complete this sentence when you were a child: "How many times do I have to tell you ..."?
2. During your teen years, which non-family member had the greatest influence in your life?

DIG:

1. Jesus had previously fed 5,000 people in a similar situation (Mk 6:30-44). Why do you think Mark included both of these accounts?
2. Why does this situation so fluster the disciples after the other feeding miracle (6:30-44, 52)? What is the disciples' concern here?
3. In light of all the miracles that Jesus had already done, why would the Pharisees "demand a sign from heaven"? How might they have responded if Jesus had provided one? Why wouldn't Jesus give them one?
4. What was Jesus trying to say about the Pharisees and Herod when he referred to yeast (recall 6:14-29 and 7:1-23)? How were the Pharisees and Herod similar? What did the disciples think he was talking about?
5. At what points had the disciples failed to understand? What did Jesus want them to understand?

APPLICATION:

1. The disciples witnessed Jesus feeding 5,000 people yet doubt whether he can feed 4,000. Do you ever doubt Jesus' ability to meet your need even though he has done so in the past?
2. When it comes to the needs of others—both physical and spiritual—is your concern closer to that of Jesus, or that of the disciples? Right now, what are some concrete ways in which you can respond to the needs of others?
3. What does "hardness of heart" mean to you?
4. Do you understand the implications of Jesus' two feeding miracles in your life? Explain.

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