

Mark 6:6-8:21 Questions

Read 6:6-13.

--Why would Jesus instruct the disciples not to pack for their journey? Should we likewise never pack supplies before ministering to others? Supposing we decide that it's good to pack supplies when ministering to others, what principles regarding ministry might we take from Jesus' instructions?

--Why do you think he gave them authority over unclean spirits? If we don't have that authority, are there other ways we can either bring or communicate God's healing and restoring power?

--In between sending and return, Mark tells of how John the Baptizer was killed by Herod. Why do you think he includes that story? Take a moment to yourself and consider, do you think following Jesus and proclaiming God's message is something that's worth dying for? If you think it's worth dying for, how might that affect how you live for it?

After the disciples return, Jesus takes them and seeks a retreat, but is followed by crowds. He teaches them, and then miraculously feeds them. He then sends the disciples across the lake and passes them by, walking on water. On the other side, many people bring their sick for Jesus to heal. Then some Pharisees come up to Jesus and challenge him on a matter of piety. Read 7:1-8.

--The Pharisees probably had some honest concerns about maintaining holiness before God, but their hearts are nonetheless far from God. Apart from Jesus appearing in front of you and telling you, how would you know if your heart is wandering away from God? Are there ways we can keep from falling into the trap of being religious but far from God?

After the incident with the Pharisees, a Gentile woman finds Jesus and asks him to heal her daughter. After an interesting interchange that demonstrates her faith, he complies. He then heals a deaf man, and in a situation that should have been déjà vu for the disciples, he feeds 4000. He rebuffs Pharisees for their unbelief when they ask him for a sign, and then he and his disciples head back to the other side of the lake. Read 8:13-21.

--In verse 21, Jesus says the disciples are missing something important. How would you explain to them what they are missing, and what they need to see? In what ways would you, too, need to take such advice?