

A Miracle Meal and Spiritual Amnesia

Mark 7:31-8:26

Note the “sandwich structure” here once again and that Jesus and the 12 head to Decapolis, which has a bunch of gentiles.

Deaf man is healed. 7:31-37,

- ◆ Why attention on a deaf man—many were healed (Matt. 15:30,31)?
- ◆ Again we have *astonished* crowds, 7:37 (cf. 1:27, 2:12, 5:20, 6:2).

Blind man is healed. 8:22-26

- ◆ Why attention on a blind man—both these miracles are only in Mark?
- ◆ Note both healings highlight Jesus’ touching (7:33, 8:23) and concern for secrecy (7:36, 8:26).

Four thousand are fed. 8:1-21

- ◆ Similar scene: a big hungry crowd yet no available food, cf. 6:33ff.
Similar discussion: Jesus wants to feed folks; the 12 question Him.
Similar outcome: a big miracle-meal w/lots of leftovers.
- ◆ Sign-seeking Pharisees / Sadducees get rebuffed, cf. Matt. 16:1-4.
- ◆ Warning about Pharisees / Sadducees = their teaching, Matt. 16:12.
- ◆ Jesus fires eight questions in a row at the forgetful and clueless disciples after quoting a rough statement from Jer. 5:21 / Ezek. 12:2.

Can we also easily get a case of “spiritual amnesia”?

What must I be careful to do to avoid it?

