

# Bible Study Questions

## ***A Bad Answer – Mark 8:1-21***

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### **Focus**

Despite all the evidence that Jesus has revealed about His identity, the obstinate unbelief of the Pharisees is dangerously close to now spreading among the disciples. Therefore, the disciples must remember and think carefully about all that He's done so that their hearts don't become hard and as a result miss out on the blessings of His gospel.

### **Read**

[Mark 8:1-21](#)

### **Listen**

CCNYC teaching on Mark 8 which can be found on our [website](#)

*As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.*

### **Some Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Take a moment to review where Jesus has most recently been and who He has most recently been engaging with. Given that, what should we conclude from Mark's identification of this passage as occurring "In those days" (verse 1)?
2. Review the feeding of the 5,000 in Mark 30-44. What are some of the similarities and differences between the two feedings?
3. With what intention do the Pharisees approach Jesus in verse 11?
4. Read Psalm 95:8-11. How does this interaction between the Pharisees and Jesus resemble that between God and the Israelites in the wilderness? What's significant about that? What conclusions should we draw?
5. What do the disciples seem preoccupied by in the boat?
6. What does Jesus' warning mean?

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7. What do you make of Jesus' barrage of questions to the disciples in verses 17-21 and why do you think He focuses in on the amount of leftovers?
8. Given what unfolds in this passage, what's the danger posed to the disciples and how much danger do you think they're in? (cf. Isa 6:9-10; Jer 5:2-32; Ezekiel 12:2)
9. What should the disciples have ultimately "understood"?

### **Closing Reflection and Application**

10. If somebody began a sentence by saying something like, "I like to think of Jesus as...", how would you respond?
11. Why do you think Jesus wouldn't give the Pharisees the sign they were looking for?
12. Do you ever see the attitude of the Pharisees' in people today? If so, how do you respond to them?
13. Why is unbelief so pernicious? Have you ever witnessed unbelief spreading like leaven through a church, a family, and/or a Christian organization? What did you learn?
14. Looking at the questions that Jesus asks the disciples, what's the connection between the disciples' lack of belief and their understanding and remembering?
15. What's the antidote, therefore, to avoiding "the leaven of the Pharisees"?

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16. What are some ways we can help each other to think hard and to ponder deeply the truth about Jesus and the gospel?
  
17. What are some ways we can help each other remember well who Jesus is and what He has done?
  
18. Read Psalm 77:11-12 and 107:43. How can we apply these instructions to our lives?