

TEXT: MARK 8:1-10

THE OPENING:

Q: WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU FACED SOMETHING THAT SEEMED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE AT FIRST? YET HERE YOU ARE TODAY. HOW DID YOU DO IT?

- IT MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE YOU DID IT ALONE, OR EVEN WITH HELP FROM OTHER PEOPLE – BUT YOU DID IT WITH GOD’S HELP.
- **JAMES 1:17** ‘Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.^[a] He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.’
- IN TONIGHT’S MESSAGE WE WILL LOOK AT A SITUATION THAT FOR THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS, SEEMED HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE. BUT AS SOON AS THEY TRUSTED GOD WITH THE PROBLEM, THEY WOULD BEGIN TO SEE THAT GOD WAS ON THEIR SIDE AND THAT HE WANTED TO HELP THEM BRING RELIEF TO OTHERS.

KEY POINTS:

- GOD IS CAPABLE OF DOING GREAT THINGS, AND HE WANTS EACH ONE OF US TO KNOW THAT WITH HIS HELP WE TOO ARE CAPABLE OF MUCH MORE.
- **JOHN 14:12** ‘I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME [AS SAVIOR] WILL DO THE SAME WORKS I HAVE DONE, AND EVEN GREATER WORKS [IN EXTENT AND OUTREACH], BECAUSE I AM GOING TO BE WITH THE FATHER.’

I BELIEVE THERE IS NO PROBLEM TOO DIFFICULT FOR GOD, BUT WE HAVEN’T LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THE SOLUTION KNOWN AND AVAILABLE TO OTHERS.

MARK 8:1 – THE PEOPLE RAN OUT OF FOOD AGAIN

- WHEREVER WE GO, THERE ARE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE SOLVED

MARK 8:1-3 – JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES ‘I FEEL SORRY FOR THESE PEOPLE...’

- COMPASSION IS A NECESSARY QUALITY THAT GOD WANTS US TO HAVE
- **COMPASSION:** A FEELING OF DEEP SYMPATHY AND SORROW FOR ANOTHER, WHO IS STRICKEN BY MISFORTUNE, ACCOMPANIED BY A STRONG DESIRE TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING.

- JESUS (**SEES**) **THE PROBLEM** BEFORE HIS DISCIPLES DO.
- JESUS (**ACKNOWLEDGES**) **THE PROBLEM** PUBLICLY.
- JESUS (**CARES**) **MORE** THAN OTHERS DO INITIALLY.
- JESUS (**CLARIFIES**) **THE PROBLEM**:
 1. THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WITH HIM FOR THREE DAYS.
 2. THE PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING TO EAT.
 3. THE PEOPLE WILL FAINT IF I SEND THEM HOME.
- JESUS (**WAITS**) **FOR HIS DISCIPLES** TO UNDERSTAND/RESPOND/JOIN HIM
Q: HOW MANY PROBLEMS GO UNMET BECAUSE GOD IS WAITING FOR HIS PEOPLE TO JOIN HIM IN MAKING AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE?

MARK 8:4 – HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FEED THEM

- **COMMITMENT**: THE ACT OF COMMITTING, PLEDGING, OR ENGAGING ONESELF
Q: WHAT ARE THE PROMISES THAT GOD HAS MADE TO YOU? AND WHAT PROMISES HAVE YOU MADE TO GOD, TO YOURSELF, AND TO OTHERS?
Q: HOW DOES GOD WANT YOU TO ENGAGE THE PROBLEMS AROUND YOU?

MARK 8:5 – HOW MUCH BREAD DO YOU HAVE?

- **CAPACITY**:
 1. THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE OR CONTAIN
 2. ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL ABILITY TO PERFORM, YIELD, OR WITHSTAND
 3. POSITION; FUNCTION; ROLE

Q: HOW MUCH CAPACITY DO YOU HAVE FOR MINISTRY - FOR HELPING OTHERS?

HOW MUCH: TIME, ENERGY, DESIRE, IMAGINATION, PATIENCE, AND INFLUENCE
 CAN YOU FIND TO SEE THAT OTHERS DON'T MISS WHAT GOD IS ABOUT TO DO?

MARK 8:6 – JESUS TAKES WHAT WE HAVE & USES IT FOR OUR GOOD & HIS GLORY

- JESUS HELPS HIS DISCIPLES FIND THE SOLUTIONS FOR TODAY'S PROBLEMS

ADDITIONAL TEXT:

- **Matthew 19:26** ... but **with God all things are possible.**
- **Luke 1:37** For **with God** nothing shall be impossible.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do **all things** through Christ which strengthens me.

APPLICATION:

- EXAMINE THE PLACES YOU CAN BEGIN TO HELP. START THERE.
- WITHIN THE CHURCH, I'VE LISTED SOME KEY AREAS THAT GOD WANTS US TO HONOR HIM, SUCH AS: MINISTRY; WORSHIP; PRAYER; GIVING; EVANGELISM; OUTREACH; HOSPITALITY; SERVING; VOLUNTEERING; MISSIONS; DISCIPLESHIP; LEADERSHIP; DREAMS; HABITS; AND GOALS, ETC.

TIME TO HEAR FROM GOD:

- REMIND YOURSELF TODAY OF GOD'S COMPASSION FOR YOU AND OTHERS.
- REVIEW THE COMMITMENTS YOU HAVE MADE TO HIM SO FAR THIS YEAR.
- REIMAGINE THE CAPACITY YOU HAVE YET TO GIVE GOD GLORY.

THE CLOSING:

- CHOOSE TO HONOR GOD EACH DAY WITH THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN YOU.
- WITH THE HELP OF GOD, KNOW THAT WE CAN ALL DO MORE THAN WE EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE, IF WE WOULD ONLY BELIEVE.

I BELIEVE... THAT:

- I HAVE CAPACITY FOR MORE OF GOD.
- I MUST MAKE ROOM FOR MORE OF GOD.
- GOD WILL MAKE MORE AVAILABLE TO US AS WE BEGIN TO TRUST HIM WITH ALL THAT WE ALREADY HAVE.
- I AM ON THE WINNING SIDE!