

# Mark 8:1-26

## What do you see?

Have you ever met someone famous without realising it? Do you regret what you said or did in front of them?

### Verses 1-10

This event is very similar to the miraculous feeding of 5000 people in Mark 6:30-44.

What similarities and what differences do you notice between the two events and their circumstances?

Do you think there's any special significance in the miracle being repeated? why/why not?

What does this episode reveal to us about Jesus?

### Verses 11-21

Why do the Pharisees ask for a sign? How does it connect with their previous interactions with Jesus from chapters 3 and 7?

What do you think Jesus says no sign will be given?

Do you think Jesus' miracles are meant to be 'signs'? Why / why not?

What do you think Jesus means in verse 15 by telling the disciples to 'watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod'?

What do you think it might look like for us today to continue to 'watch out' in this way?

Jesus is obviously frustrated and disappointed by the disciple's reaction to his warning (v16ff). What do you think Jesus expected his disciples to understand from the feedings? How does that relate to their reaction about the bread?

Why does Jesus ask if they 'have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear'?

In the context of Mark's gospel so far, what does that question imply? (cf. Mark 4:10-12)

The phrase 'have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear' appears in passages from the Old Testament, such as Jeremiah 5:21 and Ezekiel 12:2. What light does the context of those passages shed on the phrase and why Jesus uses it here?

Why might we fail to see Jesus for who he really is? How might a failure to see Jesus clearly affect us in daily life, even as people seeking to follow Jesus?

### Verses 22-26

Many people argue that the healing of the blind man, particularly in two stages, is like an enacted parable of what is happening with Jesus' disciples. Why might people say this?

How do you think this healing connects with what Jesus has just been saying to his disciples in the boat? (note also the connections to 7:31-37)

What hope does this healing give us hope in light of what we've seen particularly in verses 11-21?

What can you do if you don't think you've been seeing Jesus for who he really is?