

## Mark 8:1-21 Heart Check

**One of my favorite meals to eat is a good sandwich**

A) Sometimes I feel like I could eat a Sandwich every night for dinner –

B) But– this story I recently came across almost made me lose my appetite for Sandwich

In 2008, some folks in Iran trying to set the record for the GBWR longest sandwich built a 4,921-foot-long sandwich—1,543 pounds of ostrich meat plus another 1,543 pounds of chicken. **Yes more than 3,000 pounds of meat.**

Unfortunately for everybody involved, the massive concoction **proved too irresistible**: just as official tape-measure wielders from the Guinness World Records were getting ready to make a call, crowds of onlookers rushed the tasty treat and devoured it!

**The Record was set in 2010, when determined sandwich-makers in Dubai built 1.65-mile-long sandwich consisting of**

- 600 jars of cream cheese,
- 1,900 pounds of vegetables,
- 1,100 pounds of tomatoes,
- 584 pounds of cucumbers,
- 220 pounds of olives.

This vegetarian delight took just three hours to assemble by a team of 250 volunteers, **beating out a record that had previously been set in Italy.**

**We are a wealth of useful information here at CV!**

A) If you ask me these pp have way to much time on their hands!

B) Today we are looking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest meal ever served in the NT.

1) The first was the feeding of the 5,000 that we looked at back in Mark ch. 6

C) We noted that account specifically mentioned – **5,000 men** – meaning –

1) Include women and Children – upwards of 15-20k

**Today we come to the feeding of the 4,000!**

A) Title: Heart check – See with the Disciples even though with Jesus almost 3 years – still clueless

B) Problem was not Perception: Heart Problem

**In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, 2 "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."**

**4 Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?"**

5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"  
And they said, "Seven."

6 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude.

7 They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. 8 So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.

9 Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, 10 immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

Now the feeding of the 4,000 is one of the most overlooked miracles in the NT. – too similar

A)Some “scholars” even suggest that it is the retelling of the same miracle.

B)Even though later in the chapter in V.19,20 Jesus clearly states that there were two feedings

C) Here are some definite distinctions

1. 5k – 1day / 4k – 3days
2. 5k – green grass =spring / 4k ground - summer
3. 5k - 5 loaves 2 fish / 4k – 7 loaves – few fish
- 4.5k – picked up 12 baskets – small  
4k – 7 baskets = hampers
5. 5K – Prayed once / 4K prayed twice
6. 5k – Galilee / 4k Decapolis

Decapolis was comprised of ten cities on the east side of the Sea of Galilee.

A)The people of Decapolis had their own government, had adopted Greek culture, and willingly lived under Roman authority.

B)This would mean that this crowd of **four thousand**—unlike the previous crowd of five thousand—was primarily Gentiles.

C)Which I think gives us insight into the real heart of the disciples question in V.4

4 Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?"

D)See there question was **NOT one of skepticism** – How can you feed a crowd this size – out here?

E)The Disciples could be block heads for sure  
But I don't think they were that forgetful !

It had only been a few months – since the feeding of the 5,000!

A)So it wasn't that they were being Skeptical – it was they were being prejudice.

B)KEY – **THESE PEOPLE!** – These gentiles –  
1)These heathens.

**C) Much of the ministry of Jesus in the last several chapters – has been about – trying to get his disciples to understand – He was the Bread of life for all peoples!**

1) They are still having a hard time with this

D) Christians today can be guilty of making the same mistakes – ( **Looking down on a group-** )

1) Thinking – Jesus surely doesn't want to save them!

**What I love about our Movement – CC**

A) Pastor Chuck and his wife – Kay praying at HB for the hippies – (**Drugs, sex, anti-establishment**)

B) Most of the church world either felt – threatened by the hippies of just didn't know what to do with them! { **Disdained – or ignored**

C) God used **Chuck and Kay** – Birth a Revival that became known as the Jesus people movement!

1) Swept this country! – SO GRATEFUL

D) We have to be so careful – today we don't lose that heart become isolated or prejudice –

Hebrews 7:25 speaking of Jesus!

**“He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.”**

A) Perhaps you are here today – thinking – I am too far gone – too many bad things – be loved accepted.

**B) Not true: In this group here today – People who have been pulled out of the pit**

1) Prison, drug addicts, abortions, sex addicts – you name it – Pulled out of the pit by Jesus

C) Others who were saved from it – Jesus simply got a hold of our hearts – before we went down that road

1) He is able to save to the **UTTERMOST – GUTTERMOST – Save you!**

**The feeding of the 4,000 was a real miracle that was symbolic of the desire of Jesus to meet a bigger need!**

A) John 6:35 **"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

B) Jesus is the bread that satisfies the soul – the Hunger in our hearts!

C) Void – **World cannot satisfy**

**Now there is a difference between Physical food and Spiritual Hunger –**

A) Physically – **eat and are full** – stuffed – unbutton your pants –

B) Never eat again – Dessert tray comes –

**But it is different spiritually – Our souls are elastic –**

A)The more you eat spiritually – the more hungry you get.

B)But in Jesus we have a continual supply of Bread to fully satisfy our hearts!

C)So after spending 3 days with a group of people – Feeding them Spiritually.

1)We see that Jesus once again has compassion on their Physical need and – **Sought to feed them.**

D)Rather than send them home – famished !

1)Once again – **The disciples get to be a part of the Miracle** - / See His heart for the Gentiles / **V.10b**

**10 immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.**

A)This is the only mention of this place in the entire Bible.

B)Matthew's gospel – says he went to the area of Magdala. – (Same place)

1) Dalmanutha was the ancient Greek name of the place.

C)Magdala – is located on the southwestern shore of the sea of Galilee – **just north of Tiberias**

1)Notable because that is where – Mary Magdalene was from – Mary from Magdala

**D)Woman with a sordid past – whom Jesus had cast 7 demons out of her –**

1)She became a devoted follower – and was the first person to see Christ – Resurrected!

E) Her story is an Interesting in contrast to what we see in the religious leaders in the area.

**11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."**

A)Hadn't they seen enough? Blind see, dead are raised, lame are healed-

**NO WONDER JESUS SIGHED!**

B)I wonder if He ever feels that way about us!

1)He has done so much – instead we clamor for more proof.

C)Matthew's gospel adds this insight in Jesus response to the Pharisees.

**Matthew 12:39-40**

**"But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly**

of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

**The only sign He would give was the sign of His resurrection. Greatest sign of all!**

A) Separates Jesus from every other religious leader and Christianity from every other faith - **JESUS HAS RISEN!**

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty..... and if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!”

B) The Resurrection is the Key to everything!  
V. 13 -21

13 And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side. 14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat. (Little tidbit that will become important to the conversation.)

15 Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

**So Jesus is thinking about this encounter with the Pharisees and decides to use it as a teaching moment**

A) Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees & Herod.

B) Leaven is the yeast placed in the dough that caused the dough to rise!

1) Interesting thing about yeast – it only takes a little bit of yeast to have an affect on the whole loaf.

C) Culturally & spiritually – **Leaven was always seen a picture of Sin and of evil.**

1) A little bit of sin/ a little bit of compromise can affect your whole life. Spreads

**Jesus warned .. disciples about three kinds of leaven**

A) Pharisees leaven of Legalism- they judged their spirituality by the outward works, rules, rituals

B) **On the outside they looked good** – towed the line but on the inside – **the heart is what God sees.**

1) They were like a tomb full of dead mans bones

Bb) **DEAD RELIGION – NO RELATIONSHIP!**

C) Anyone of us can be affected by the leaven of legalism.

1) The leaven of legalism – produces the sin of Pride

D) You begin to compare your spirituality to others by how well they are living up to **YOUR STANDARD**

E) Easy to look down on others –

**But pride is at the top of the list of the seven sins Proverbs 6 that are an abomination to the Lord –**

A) Spiritual pride is maybe the worst!

B) So beware of the leaven of legalism.

C) But Jesus here also warned his disciples of the leaven of Herod.

1) The leaven of Herod – was about Politicalism

D) The Herod's believed that blessing came through Political power.

Again we in the church can fall into the trap of thinking that what really matters is Politicalization of America.

A) Blessing of living in a Democratic country – We need to Vote – we should use our voice

B) But the answer to the country is not Political reform – **it is Revival. – PRAY HARD**

C) Times like this – recent decision by the Supreme court – Call black white and white black

D) The answer is not in Policies – **Never going to win that war – Enemy keeps coming – not back down**

Sometimes a Church or the Christian community can get to thinking – if we could just change policy

A) Of if we could just – get this person in office....

B) Even though those things can help – the Answer is in Jesus – Revival

1) You cannot mandate Christianity for very long

C) So Jesus said: Watch out for the Leaven of Politicalism

Finally in Matthews's gospel Ch. 16 – He warned them about the Leaven of the Sadducees.

A) The Sadducees were the other prominent religious group in Israel.

B) Problem was the Sadducees didn't believe in miracles – or Afterlife – SAD-U-SEE

C) To them it was all about the here in now!

Theirs was the Leaven of Materialism: They judged their spirituality by outward wealth.

A) They were the ones – in charge of the swap meet in the temple courtyard – **A RACKET making business**

B) They took advantage of people in the name of religion.

1) All because they were focused not on God but on Materialism

Again we as believers can fall into that trap too- our whole focus is on Materialism.

A) Things in this world instead of the world to come.

B) We can judge our spiritual blessing on how much we have acquired –



1)Remember Jesus said – Mark 4 Riches can be **distraction** (hearts off of what is really important)

C)How do we keep materialism in Check?

**Howard Hendricks the famous Prof at Dallas**

He & his wife Jeanne once dined with a rich man from a wealthy Boston family, Hendricks asked him, "How in the world did you grow up in the midst of such wealth and not be consumed by materialism?" His answer: "My parents taught us that everything in our home was either an idol or a tool." /

D)All in how do you view your possessions?  
Possessions are fine as long as they don't possess you!

**So Jesus uses this moment to teach his disciples to watch out for Leaven – Ph. Sad. Herod**

A)They completely missed it! Over their heads!

**16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread."**

B)Series of questions: Nine in all

**17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, 1 "Why do you reason because you have no bread? 2 Do you not yet perceive nor understand? 3 Is your heart still hardened? 4 18 Having eyes, do you not see? 5 And having ears, do you not hear? 6 And do you not remember? 7 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?" They said to Him, "Twelve."**

**8 20 "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?" And they said, "Seven."**

**21 So He said to them, 9 "How is it you do not understand?"**

**Now Jesus makes it clear that there is a direct correlation between, a hardening of heart and a failing of memory.**

A)Our lack of understanding and spiritual perception is directly connected to **failing memory**

B)Forgetting who Jesus is – forgetting what He has done!

C)Forgetting the many times He has come through for us.

1) **IDENTITY SERIES – SO IMPORATANT**

**See this problem in the children of Israel!**

A)Their unbelief and hardness of heart was directly connected to their failing memory.

B)Every time they found themselves in a jam – they saw only the problem that was right in front of them

C)They failed to see the hand of God who had led them – went before them.

**Same thing can happen in our lives**

A)When does my heart become hardened toward the Lord?

B)When does my heart begin to lack the fire of faith?

C)When I forget the faithfulness of God in my life!

**The Bible uses three main descriptions for the heart**

1. Dead heart –
2. Hard heart/Cold heart  
**Love of many grow cold**
3. Burning heart

**Close today: Heart check: How to avoid allowing heart to get hardened.**

**#1 Guard your heart - Proverbs 4:23**

**“Above all else, guard your heart,  
for it is the wellspring of life.”**

**#2 Get a regular Heart check: Psalms 139:23-24**

**“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxieties;  
24 And see if there is any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting.”**

**#3 Water your heart: Isaiah 64:8**

**“But now, O Lord, You are our Father;  
We are the clay, and You our potter;  
And all we are the work of Your hand.”**

**What is the essential ingredient for a Potter working with Clay? – Water !**

A)Water keeps the clay soft and moldable.

B)The Bible likens God’s word to being like water that refreshes our thirst –

1)But it is also that which keeps **our hearts soft**.

**C)Reading God’s word – openness and receptiveness  
Is key to keeping your heart from getting hard.**

D)Whenever I meet people or counsel with people who are struggling with doubt – heart is getting hard.

1)There is a common factor in every single one of their lives - **LACK OF DEVOS** –

**E)LACK OF TIME IN THE WORD!**

F)Subtly their heart gets hard – even though they might have a lot of Bible knowledge.

1)If there is not the regular washing – soaking and applying of the water of the word – the heart – hard

**#1 Guard your heart**

**#2 Regular heart check up**

**#3 Water your heart**

**#4 Stimulate your heart: Memorials Joshua 4:19,20**

A)After the Children of Israel crossed the jordan river – 12 stones – set up at a Place called Gilgal



**B)Memorial – people would come back to and ask it was a reminder of how the Lord had been faithful to bring them to the Promised land**

**C)All encompassing – Forty years of provision –**

**1)Stopped the waters of the Jordan at flood season.**

**In fact it was interesting that during the time of their conquest of Canaan – they camped at Gilgal – Rocks**

**A)They would go into battle – come back to Gilgal**

**B)Next foe – There would be those Rocks**

**C)Our memorials – Worship songs – BE HERE**

**1) Communion**

**D)Journaling - Write it down – look at it**

**Your heart today:**

**Dead –**

**Hard/ cold**

**Burning**