

Exegetical Notes, Mark 8:14-21

“The Yeast!”

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Mark 8:14-21

Verse 14

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

- See Mark 8:1-13. Jesus had just fed the multitude with just seven loaves of bread. He had an encounter with the Pharisees who had asked him for another sign that would prove to them who he was. After this he had gotten into a boat with his disciples and was on his way to Dalmanutha. These events happened in that boat immediately following those events.
- Again, the surface issue is food, bread. Apparently, the disciples had failed to provide supplies for their journey. They had only one loaf of bread with them.

Verse 15

“Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

- As the disciples contemplated the situation, Jesus delivered a warning to them to watch out for the Pharisees and for King Herod.

Verse 16

They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

- To the disciples Jesus’ words seemed out of place. They were focused on the immediate problem, their lack of preparation for the journey and thought that he was also concerned about what they were going to eat.

Verse 17-20

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” “Twelve,” they replied. And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?” They answered, “Seven.”

- Knowing that they had missed the point, Jesus recalled to their minds the events of Mark 6:30-44 and Mark 8:1-13. He reminded them that bread was not the issue, and that he was able to care for all of their needs.

Verse 21

He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

- It was so hard for the disciples to learn to trust Jesus for all their needs.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *The Yeast!* They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)