

Heart Issues

“Case For Christ” Series, (A Study of Mark’s Gospel, part 27)

Insights from Mark 8:11-21

May 22nd, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Insights from Mark 8:11-13

(Mark 2:7; 3:1-6; 7:5-9)

Silence from God could mean ...

- **He is waiting for a S** _____
(Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 4:18)
- **He is waiting for a S** _____
(Proverbs 28:13-14, Hebrews 3:13)
- **He is waiting for a S** _____
(Psalm 27:14, Psalm 130:5)

Insights from Mark 8:14-21

W _____ **weakens our W** _____
(Matthew 6:25–33)

H _____ **can H** _____
(1 Corinthians 10:12)

- **not happens ...**
(Proverbs 24:30-34)
- **not the same as ...**
(Mark 14:35-36)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our fourth week of our nine week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 8:11-13, the Pharisees wanted yet another sign from heaven, and instead of giving them another sign, Jesus rowed away leaving them waiting on the shore. Speaking of waiting, what is something special (besides heaven) that you are waiting to experience and hope that some day it will happen?

Mark 8:14-21, the disciples miss what Jesus is wanting them to understand because they are focused on something else. As they were concerned they didn't have enough bread, Jesus reminded them of the two times he recently fed thousands with lots of bread left over.

Speaking of worry ... if you were to worry ... what would you be tempted to worry or be anxious about?

Think back to a time where you were worried for a period of time. What were some negative results of that time where you weren't trusting God as much as He would wanted you to?

One of the last truths that was mentioned last Sunday was how 'hardening of a heart doesn't happen all at once'.

What in your life ... good or not so good ... didn't happen all at once? For something good that didn't happen over night, what was it and how long did it take? How close were you to giving up along the way? If you almost give up, what kept you going?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the two key passages from last Sunday. (Mark 8:11-13, and Mark 8:14-21)

After reading these passages and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you? What are some takeaways from these stories in regards to our faith?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Mark 8:11-13, the Pharisees tried to test Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven to prove the truth of his messages and claims of his divine identity and authority. Jesus was clearly bothered with the Pharisees (he deeply sighed in his spirit) for asking for another sign.

Why do you think it was wrong for them to be asking for more hard evidence of who Jesus was?

Can you think of a time in your life when you were asking God for a sign or for Him to reveal Himself in a special way and instead you got silence from God? How did you respond?

Why do you think God didn't immediately give you a 'sign from heaven' you asked for?

2. Despite the multitude of signs and miracles that Jesus had performed, the Pharisees remained unwilling to accept the evidence that was presented.

In John 14:5-11, Jesus went a different direction to help the disciples understand who He was.

How might this passage strengthen your own faith or that of a new believer?

3. One of the reasons God chooses to be silent when we ask for Him not to be, is hidden or unconfessed sin in our lives.

Let's re-read two passages (Proverbs 28:13-14 and Hebrews 3:13) that were shared last Sunday about the need for confessing and repenting of our sin.

Knowing the importance of being honest about our sin, why is there a tendency to attempt to hide or deny or defend the sin that God reveals in our lives?

4. Worry not only weakens our wisdom, it also causes all sorts of problems in our lives.

Let's read the following passages and share our insights regarding worrying less and trusting God more: Matthew 6:25-28, John 14:1-3, Psalm 6:2-4, Luke 24:38-39, Isaiah 35:4, John 14:27, Jeremiah 17:7-8, Psalm 18:6, Psalm 59:16, Matthew 6:34, 2 Chronicles 15:3-4, Philippians 4:6-7, Luke 12:28-30, Psalm 118:5-6

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?