

“What Disciples Believe Pt. 1”
Mark 8:11-38
6/23/24
Message 19

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “What Disciples Believe”
- **Some Thoughts to Consider Before we DIG into our Study**
 - **FB Page - JC Ryle Quotes**
 - **Show Pic**
 - “Never go to a church that is more worried about keeping you as a member than telling you the TRUTH”
 - I Know you guys know this!
 - But it is important to repeat
 - By God’s Grace - I have NEVER shied away from teaching the WHOLE TRUTH
 - No matter how hard it is for THIS CULTURE to hear!
 - Weather it FILLS the church or EMPTIES it
 - To be candid it’s not always easy to do
 - By God’s Grace - I will NEVER Stop – I FEAR GOD
 - **My Precious Brothers & Sisters**
 - I Said all that to say!...
 - **The Message in front of us – Needs to be taken VERY SERIOUSLY**

- Now I hope you Hear my heart
 - This life is NOT our own

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- This Life is NOT a DRESS rehearsal –
 - It is the REAL deal
- What we do here today will affect what happens in the next life which is FOREVER
 - 1st Eternal Home?
 - With Christ or in Hell
 - 2nd Eternal Reward
 - What we do for Jesus here will affect us forever
 - God want us to USE what He has given us for His Kingdom
 - At Church – At Home – At Work
 - This will look different to us BUT we have the same expectation from God
 - GIVE our Lives ONLY to HIM!
 - For His Purpose

• **The Way Ward Church**

- **A Concern I have Shared a LOT**

- WHY?!

- The Church in America is LOST

- Illustration

- It's Been Said if the Apostle Paul were alive today

- The Church in America would be getting a LETTER!

- Just like the CHURCH in Corinth

- Actually, they probably received 4 letters – before they got their act together

- As a Result of the church being lost –

- Christians have become confused

- They have become more Consumers than Disciples

- We critique the church service based on Carnal standards

- Worship

- Children's Ministry

- Pastor

- Message

- It's my job to make sure as best I can that I communicate what God's Truth is

- **Some of the ways the church in America Lost (Just a Few Concerns)**

- **Entertainment**

- It all about the Stage Presentation
- The true church is all about
 - Touching the Hem of His Garment

- **Sin**

- We are to love every sinner – AMEN
- BUT we are NOT to Promote or Support sin
- The church today – is Accepting SIN (Homosexuality)

- **Competition Apollos Paul**

- How Big is YOUR church?!
- The Bigger the church – it is seen as being More “Successful”
- But in Reality
 - Faithfulness to God and His WORD is the measure for Success

- **NOT ABLE to Stand Sound Doctrine**

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- Only want positive and encouraging messages –

- Beware of those that always have to be positive
 - Always looking to whip up the crowd
 - God is on the MOVE always Upbeat never Hard Hitting or dealing with REALITY
 - Ploughing ground is not always glamorous work BUT very much needed

- **Focus on SELF**

- The spirit of our age
 - The world screams...
 - Save yourself
 - Love yourself
 - Pamper yourself
 - Live for yourself
 - MY Time
 - MY Weekend
 - MY MY

- 2 Quotes Tozer – JC Ryle

- **Show PICS**

- JC Ryle
 - *Tozer; Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society's own level, and congratulating itself that it has*

scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender."

- *J Martin; I am Not interested in a self-focused church BUT a God focused church*

- **Consumers vs Disciples**

- More interested on Converts than Making Disciples
- Ask Yourself Are you Really a Disciple of Jesus or a Consumer?
 - What's the difference? - Pastor Tim Brown (CCF)
- A Consumer asks, "Does this please me?"
 - A Disciple asks, "Does this please God?"
- A Consumer asks, "What will I get out of it?"
 - A Disciple asks, "What can I put into it?"
- A Consumer has their comfort in focus
 - A Disciple has God's glory in focus
- Consumers want to be served
 - Disciples want to serve
- Consumers need to be pampered
 - Disciples want to be challenged
- Consumers want to pay as little as they can to get as much as they can
 - Disciples pay full price for whatever God has for them.

- **Now This Morning we will look at 3 Powerful Truths On What Disciples Believe**

- Disciples Believe In The Power Of Jesus vs. 10-26
- Disciples Believe In The Person Of Jesus vs. 27-33
- Disciples Believe In HIS Plan & Purpose For Our Lives vs. 24-38

Disciples Believe In The Power Of Jesus vs. 11-26

- **First: Jesus Teaching On Leaven vs. 10-15**

- **1st Seeking from Him a sign from heaven vs. 10-11**

Mark 8:10–11 (NKJV)

10 immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dal-ma-nu-tha.

11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.

- **Quick Review - Last Week**

- Title – “The Compassion Of Jesus”
 - Seen In Hearing The Plea Of The Gentile Mother vs. 24-30
 - Seen In Healing Of The Deaf-Mute vs. 31-37
 - Seen In His Heart For Multitudes (8:1-10)

- **So they have arrived**

- BAM hit by the Pharisees
- Seeking a SIGN
 - This was not a request for another miracle like Jesus has already Done
 - They asked for a dramatic sign from the sky

- Something similar to Elijah's fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:38).

- **Testing / TEMPTING Him (GOD)**

- This was not a friendly encounter.
- The word tested could be translated TEMPTED
 - Not a good thing to do

- **2nd He sighed deeply in His spirit v. 12**

Mark 8:12 (NKJV)

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.”*

- **Sighed**

- Sighed Last Week - Stenazo
 - Sighed with sadness
- Sighed Deeply – Greek: Anastenazo
- Means: To draw up deep sighs from the bottom of the breast, to sigh deeply; from stenazo – a sigh, to groan with grief
 - Sighed with Frustration
 - This attack and the unbelief it showed distressed Jesus.

- **No Sign shall be given to this generation**

- God doesn't do miracles to entertain those who have no intention of believing

- The Pharisees had already made up their mind about Jesus.
 - They thought He was demon possessed (Mark 3:22).
- **3rd Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees vs. 13-15**
 - **1st No Bread vs. 13-14**

Mark 8:13–14 (NKJV)

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.

- **This Shows you – WITHOUT A DOUBT**

- That there where NO Women Traveling with them...
 - If there where women – they would have made sure they had food – they would have made sure we were taken care of
 - If it wasn't for the gals we guys would all starve
- **2nd Beware Of Leaven v. 15**

Mark 8:15 (NKJV)

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

- **Leaven**

- A type of yeast
- You add to the bread dough that makes the dough rise.
 - Without leaven, you get a tortilla.

- With leaven, you get a loaf of bread.

- **Leaven – A Represents SIN**

- Jesus is WARNING Them to Beware of the SINS coming from the

- Pharisees
- Sadducees (Matthew Gospel)
- Herod

- **The Leaven of the Pharisees**

- Legalism / Hypocrisy /

- Looking Good in front of People But far from God
- Matthew 23 – Jesus Condemns this behavior

Matthew 23:25–27 (NKJV)

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.

- How About US

- Are wanting to look good Infront of MEN
- But in reality, our hearts are far from Him

- The Difference Between Hypocrite and Real Christian

- Hypocrite – Just wants to APPEAR Right
- Christian – Preaches a standard they know they can't keep BUT are genuinely doing their best to keep His standards

- **The Leaven of Herod**

- Worldliness
- Sexual Pleasure
- Ease of life
- This is the Church / Christian
- Where there is no difference in lifestyles of its members & those of the lost world

- **The Leaven of the Sadducees**

- Liberalism
- They didn't believe in the supernatural, in the power of God, in miracles – In THE WORD OF GOD
- The spiritual Liberals don't understand God
- Liberalism destroys everything it touches

- **Second: The Trouble the Disciples Had vs. 16-21**

- **1st It is because we have no bread v. 16**

Mark 8:16 (NKJV)

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

- **The Disciples are Clueless**

- The disciples didn't relate it to a spiritual idea at all.
- All they could think of was the bread that goes in the stomach!

○ **2nd Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Vs. 17-21**

Mark 8:17–21 (NKJV)

17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, *“Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?”*

18 *Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?*

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.”*

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, *“How is it you do not understand?”*

▪ **Jesus confronted His disciples**

- Over their lack of understanding
- Are you guys even with ME?!

▪ **Do you not yet perceive nor understand?**

- They didn't understand that they shouldn't have been worried about food.
 - If Jesus could provide for the five thousand and the four thousand
- Do you not remember?
 - Their understanding should have been based on seeing what Jesus already did.
 - We can always take the past faithfulness of God as a promise for His continued love and care.

- How MANY Baskets?!

- **Third: The Touch Of Jesus On The Blind Man vs. 22-26**

- **1st He Came to Bethsaida v. 22**

Mark 8:22 (NKJV)

22 Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.

- **Show Map**

- **Application**

- Another Picture of Intercession –
 - People bring other people to Jesus
 - This is what we should be doing
- HOW do we Bring People to Jesus
 - PRAY for them
 - Share Gospel
 - Invite them to church
 - LOVE them
 - This is EVERYONE Responsibility

- **2nd He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him vs. 23-26**

Mark 8:23–26 (NKJV)

23 So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.

24 And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.”

25 Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.

26 Then He sent him away to his house, saying, *“Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town.”*

▪ **1st This Miracle is**

- ONLY found only in Mark

▪ **2nd It Raises several questions.**

- 1st Why did Jesus lead the man out of the town before healing him?
- 2nd Why didn't He heal by simply touching the man?
- 3rd Why use such an unconventional means as saliva?
- 4th Why didn't the man receive perfect sight immediately?
 - (This is the only cure in the Gospels which took place in stages.)
- 5th Why did Jesus forbid the man to tell about the miracle in the town?

▪ **Answers**

- I DON'T KNOW
- Our Lord is sovereign and is not obligated to account to us for His actions.
- There was a valid reason for everything He did, even though we don't understand

Disciples Believe In The Person Of Jesus vs. 27-33

• **First: Who Do Men SAY That I AM? vs. 27-30**

- **1st Who do men say that I am?**

Mark 8:27 (NKJV)

27 Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “**Who do men say that I am?**”

- **Jesus asked this question as**

- As way to flush out their hearts
- To ask a more important follow-up question.

- **2nd John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah... v. 28**

Mark 8:28 (NKJV)

28 So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”

- **Some SAY**

- John the Baptist - who had been beheaded by Herod
- He is Elijah or one of the others prophets
- He was one of the Prophets – “Jeremiah”

- **Application – Sadly there is Still Confusion**

- **The COMMON DENOMINATOR of all False Religions is**

- A denial or redefining of the True Identity of Jesus Christ...
 - They may say a lot about Him...even good things
 - But they do not KNOW the Jesus of the Bible

- **Islam:**

- Jesus was a prophet, but not God's Son
- Say: "God is Unique! God, the Source [of everything]. *He has not fathered anyone nor was He fathered, and there is nothing comparable to Him!*" (Qur'an 112:1-4)

- **Hinduism:**

- The Mystery of Jesus Christ; Christ consciousness
- Every event in the life of Christ, because he is born of the Spirit, is to be seen as a universal-symbolic stage of spiritual life; ***Christhood is the state of glorious interior illumination in which divine wisdom has become heritage of the soul***".

- **Mormonism:**

- Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer; one of many gods
- Spencer W. Kimball, (12th President Of The Mormon Church – Died in 1985) Conference Report, April 1964, Pg.95 "There is another power in this world forceful and vicious. In the wilderness of Judaea, on the temple's pinnacles and on the high mountain, a momentous contest took place between two brothers, Jehovah and Lucifer, sons of Elohim."

- **Jehovah's Witness:**

- Michael & Jesus are one in the same
- The Watchtower Society teaches that Jesus Christ was the first created being of Jehovah God. Jehovah God created Jesus as a divine-like spirit at some point in ancient, pre-creation time. "This means that he was created before all the other spirit sons of God, and that he is the only one who

was directly created by God” (You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth [Live] [Brooklyn: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1982], p. 58).

- **SADLY the Modern Evangelical Church**

- Sadly Even in the Modern Evangelical Church is confused
- Many have taken verses out of context or simply chose to not look at the whole Bible to understand Who Jesus is
- *Jesus is LOOKING more like Gandhi than the JESUS of The BIBLE*
- Illustrations
 - In the Modern Church of today there is
 - NO Sin
 - NO Conviction
 - NO Judgment
 - NO Hell
 - NO Brokenness
 - NO Repentance
 - NO Holiness
 - Many “Christians” only want to focus on God is Love Not His Holiness
 - The Movie the Chosen does this
 - STAY AWAY FROM IT

- **FOR this REASON...**

- When I am dealing with a NON-Believer the KEY FOCUS is on Who Jesus IS and WHAT He did for us
- The Cross, Resurrection our NEED for SALVATION
- I will answer some questions BUT the main FOCUS is on JESUS being LORD and Savior / preach the Gospel
- I Save “Apologetics” for backsliders
- **3rd But who do you say that I am? V. 29a**

Mark 8:29 (NKJV)

29 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”

▪ BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM

- The MOST important question that a person will ever ask
 - Who Is Jesus to YOU?!
 - A good teacher
 - A nobody
 - Good moral leader
 - How you answer this question will determine everything in life here and in the life to come
 - **4th You are the Christ v. 29b**

Mark 8:29 (NKJV)

29 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”

- Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God”

- Matthew records that Jesus said...
 - “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”
 - Jesus went on to say that upon this rock (Peter’s Confession), I will build my church
- TRUE BELIEVERS believed in the true identity of Jesus Christ

▪ Application

- TRUE BELIEVERS believed in the true identity of Jesus Christ
 - Christ, God, Messiah
 - Our LORD and Savior
 - ALL of WHO HE IS – Not just the parts we like
- Not to be too heavy
 - But if you call Him LORD are you Living and Doing what He asks you to do?

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?

- THANK YOU JESUS FOR GRACE
- 5th Strictly Warned v. 30

Mark 8:30 (NKJV)

30 Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.

- Jesus was pleased that His disciples were coming to know who He was in truth

- But He still didn't want His identity popularly known before the proper time
- Jesus has to suffer first

• **Second: The Son Of Man Must Suffer vs. 31-33**

- **1st That the Son of Man must suffer many things v. 31**

Mark 8:31 (NKJV)

31 *And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

▪ **1st He MUST SUFFER**

- 1st The CROSS
 - Something they failed to understand
 - Luke 9:43-45
- 2nd He wasn't a victim of circumstances
 - It was under a divine plan that He suffer and be rejected
 - John 3:14-18

John 10:11 (NKJV)

11 *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

John 10:15 (NKJV)

15 *As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*

John 10:17-18 (NKJV)

17 *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.*

18 *No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

▪ **2nd Resurrection**

- Resurrection our VICTORY
- According to the Bible, WHO raised Jesus from the dead?
 - In Ephesians 1:20 - it says God the Father did it
 - In John 10:18 - it says, Jesus raised Himself
 - In Romans 8:11 - it says the Spirit raise Jesus from the dead
 - You see, you cannot separate the persons of the Godhead
 - There is one God...and each person of the Godhead was involved in the miracle of the Resurrection
- **2nd He spoke this word openly v. 32**

Mark 8:32 (NKJV)

32 *He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.*

▪ **Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him**

- Peter's intent was love for Jesus
- But he was unwittingly used of Satan.
- You don't have to be demon possessed for Satan to use you, and we need to be on guard lest we are unwittingly used.

- **3rd Get behind Me, Satan! v. 33**

Mark 8:33 (NKJV)

33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, *“Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

- **This was a strong rebuke from Jesus**

- Jesus knew there was a satanic purpose in discouraging Him from His ministry on the cross
 - Jesus would not allow that purpose to succeed.

- **For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men**

- He didn't make a deliberate choice to reject God and embrace Satan
- He simply let his mind settle on the things of men instead of the things of God

- **Application**

- Make sure our thinking is in line with God's WORD
 - NOT with the world
- Illustration
 - When Christians Talk – you can see where their thinking is...

Believe In HIS Plan & Purpose For Our Lives vs. 24-38

- **More Next Week**

Mark 8:34–38 (NKJV)

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

35 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.*

36 *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*

37 *Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

38 *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

- **If Jesus DIED**

- We too must DIE to ourselves
- We NO LONGER for us we live for Jesus

Closing

- Thomas à Kempis wrote

- Jesus has many who love his kingdom in heaven, but few who bear his cross.
- He has many who desire comfort, but few who desire suffering.
- He finds many to share his feast, but few his fasting.
- All desire to rejoice with him, but few are willing to suffer for his sake.
- Many follow Jesus to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the cup of his passion.
- Many admire his miracles, but few follow him in the humiliation of the cross.