

Sermon Series in Mark: *The Servant in Action*

Sermon Title: Cultivate spiritually perceptive discipleship.

Sermon Scripture: Mark 8:1–21 (ESV)

Biblical Idea: Jesus trained and tested his disciples for dependent service and missional clarity.

1. Jesus trained his disciples in dependent service for the mission (8:1–9).
 - a. Jesus circumspectly surfaced a logistical dilemma for his disciples to consider (8:1–3).
 - b. The disciples recognized their insufficient resources but not their sufficient Savior (8:4).
 - c. Jesus gratefully gathered available resources and miraculously multiplied to satisfaction and surplus (8:5–9).
2. Jesus trained his disciples to face opposition with missional clarity (8:10–13).
 - a. The disciples and Jesus journeyed near Capernaum where they faced opposition (8:10).
 - b. The Pharisees contested for a “sign from heaven” and against Jesus’ identity (8:11).
 - c. Jesus grievously and emphatically denied this generation’s request for this sign (8:12).
 - d. The disciples and Jesus departed from the Pharisees again (8:13; cf. Mark 7).
3. Jesus tested his disciples’ missional clarity and dependence (8:14–21).
 - a. Jesus created a setting for the test (8:14).
 - b. Jesus spelled out the danger of the permeating attitudes of the Pharisees & Herodians (8:15).
 - c. The disciples demonstrated distracted discernment in their dialogue about the bread (8:16).
 - d. Jesus issued a series of questions to expose the disciples’ distracted discernment (8:17–21).

Purpose Bridge: To bring the human condition into focus.

Timeless Tension: Sin has darkened the spiritual senses disabling us to see the Savior clearly (cf. Deut. 29:4; Isa. 6:9–10).

Timeless Truth: Only God can grant perception to the spiritual senses to discern Christ’s identity and mission.

Make It Personal: Cultivate spiritually perceptive discipleship.

1. Give your hardened heart to Christ for healing.
2. Identify contemporary blind spots in the church.
3. Steward dependent servanthood.
4. Live with missional clarity.