





Mark 8:14-33

14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?"

Mark 8:14-33

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 broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." 20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." 21 And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

Mark 8:14-33

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking." 25 Then Jesus[c] laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

Mark 8:14-33

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

Mark 8:14-33

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

They Had Forgotten

14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread.



**Nobody beats
our prices!**

Beware of the Leaven

15 And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."





A Recent History Lesson

16 And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts 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 broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve."

No Understanding

20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." 21 And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

“Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread?”

“Do you not yet perceive or understand?”

“Are your hearts hardened?”

“Having eyes do you not see?”

“And having ears do you not hear?”

“And do you not remember?”

“When I broke the five loaves...how many baskets?”

“When the seven...how many baskets?”

“Do you not yet understand?”



FALLING INTO UNBELIEF

Obtuse



(lack of)
openness



(dis)obedient



obstinate



opposed
to Jesus

““ The hardened heart is a particular problem for religious and moral people (e.g., Rom 2:5). An ignorant heart cannot harden itself. Only a knowing heart can harden itself, and that is why those closest to Jesus—the Pharisees (3:5–6) and the disciples (6:52; 8:17)—stand in the gravest danger. The disciples mirror humanity-at-large, which is so stuck in its own world and cares that it is blind and deaf to God. The disciples are anxious about lack of bread, but Jesus is anxious about their lack of faith.

James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Mark, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos, 2002), 240.

Not Yet

21 And he said to them, "Do you not *yet* understand?"

“ This is a humbling rebuke. Yet, it is not without hope. Notice two tiny words in verse 17: yet and still. Jesus had not given up hope for them. He expected that in time, by the grace of God, they would perceive and their hearts would grow soft. By nature, we are deaf and blind to the things of God. Our hearts are recalcitrant, having no pulse for Him, so that the Word of God bounces off our hearts as if they were made of stone. Until the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and ears, we are impervious to the truth of God. The disciples were in this state. They were fallen creatures just like you and me. But Jesus saw the possibility of a change of heart for them.

Mark, R.C. Sproul

A Two Part Healing

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking."



Let There Be Sight!

25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

“ It is as if, through this two-stage healing, Jesus was saying that the disciples had begun to see dimly. They were not in total darkness as the pagans were. Their eyes had beheld many of the marvelous things of Christ. They had some understanding. But they had not yet seen clearly...After all the mighty works they had seen Him do, after receiving His rebuke for their ongoing hardness of heart and spiritual blindness and after seeing Him open the eyes of a man who was physically blind, something at last clicked.

Mark 8:14-33

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "**You are the Christ.**" 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

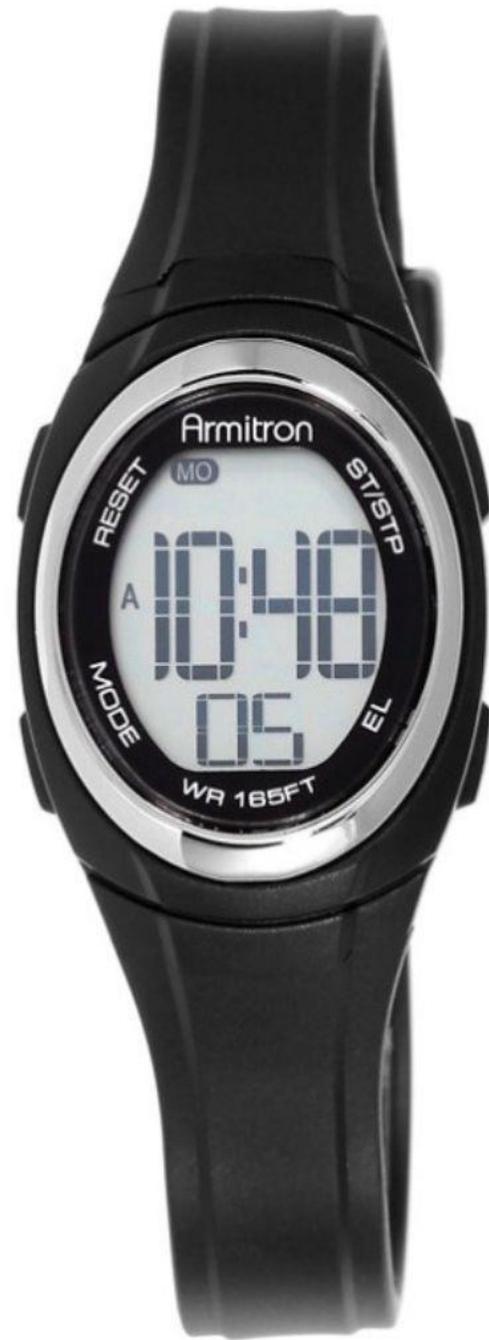
My Father Has Revealed This

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him,

"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

(Matthew 16:15-17)



The Cross in View

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly.

(Mark 8:31-32)

Misguided Peter

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33

But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

(Mark 8:32-33)



221B

“ In many ways, the new Sherlock Holmes demonstrates that some truth cannot be seen by rational, disinterested [read: scientific/historical] observation. While Sherlock sees, he does not perceive. Though he hears, he does not understand (Mark 4:12). Some truth can only be understood by a sympathetic interpreter who is personally captivated the subject matter. More specifically, you cannot approach matters of faith and love from a distance, unaffected by Who you encounter. To live life like Sherlock Holmes is to always remain above the fray at a distance from everyone else. Instead, in faith and love you must irrationally risk yourself to the other person, approaching them not in self-righteous hostility, but in free surrender.

Todd Brewer, “The Modern Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes and the Limits of Rationality”
<https://mbird.com/psychology/the-modern-misadventures-of-sherlock-holmes-and-the-limits-of-rationality/>

The Clear Sight of Peter

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

(Acts 2:36)

“ All belief involves at least a modicum of trust (e.g., trust in one’s cognitive powers), while an act of trust would be absurd without some minimum convictions about the character of the one being trusted or the benefits inherent in the act of trusting itself. Every human judgment, in other words, has a complex character involving both rational and non-rational elements, in varying proportions depending on the circumstances.

It is both belief that and belief in. Christians believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, that he is sufficient for all their needs, and then they live their belief.

PERSISTING IN BELIEF

~~Obtuse~~

given
spiritual
sight

~~(lack of)
openness~~

open to
God's word
& work

~~(dis)obedient~~

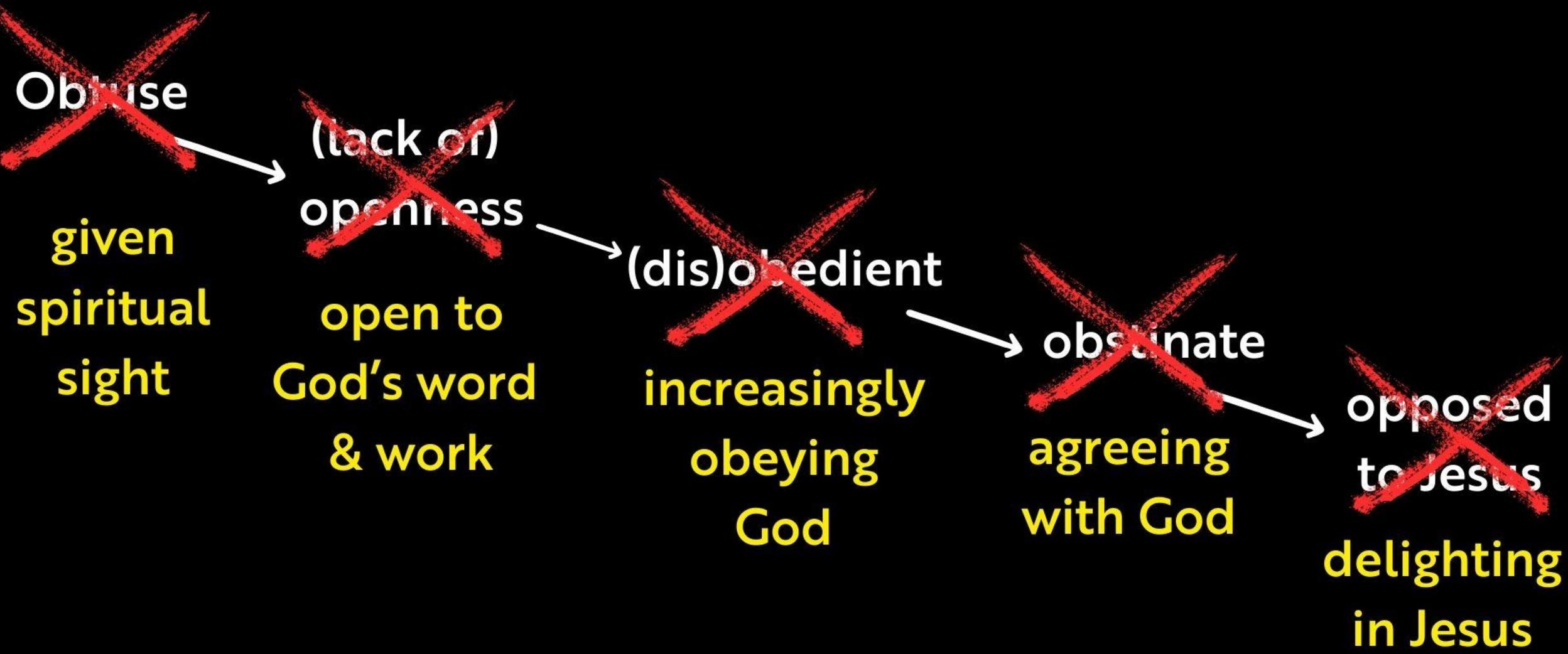
increasingly
obeying
God

~~obstinate~~

agreeing
with God

~~opposed
to Jesus~~

delighting
in Jesus



An underwater scene with a vibrant blue color palette. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface, creating a shimmering effect on the water. In the foreground, a diverse coral reef is visible, with various types of coral and small fish swimming around. The overall atmosphere is serene and bright.

BAPTISMS

EASTER SUNDAY

““ God receives none but those who are forsaken, restores health to none but those who are sick, gives sight to none but the blind, and life to none but the dead. He does not give saintliness to any but sinners, nor wisdom to any but fools. In short: He has mercy on none but the wretched and gives grace to none but those who are in disgrace.



-Martin Luther W.A. 1.183f

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

Gospel Response

Start: If you see Jesus clearly today, don't delay in trusting him. Take a next step of faith.

Strengthen: Praise God for the grace to see Jesus clearly and seek to take a next step of faith.