**Sermon Notes – Sunday 12th Feb Mark 8:1-21**

* 7:37 ‘The people were **‘overwhelmed with amazement’** at Jesus. Can you recall a time when you were amazed by something?
* What does this reaction by the people say about the person of Jesus?

**Miraculous Feeding (8:1-10)**

* Why does Mark record another miracle that is so similar to that in chapter 6: 30-44?
* What is similar and what is different about the two ‘feeding accounts’?
* What do you notice about the compassion of Jesus and can you think of other occasions when he demonstrated compassion?

**Compassion invites participation.** The compassion of Jesus invites the disciples to participate in the outworking of the miracle.

* Where does compassion lead you (what do you feel compassionate about) and how are you being invited to participate with God in his work?

**The Unbelief of the Pharisees (8:11-13)**

The Pharisees come to question, test and provoke Jesus and ask for a sign ‘from heaven’ (like that of Elijah and the prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18: 36-38).

* Why doesn’t Jesus give them the sign they are looking for? Why does he ‘sigh deeply?’ v12

**Frustration invites Comprehension (8:14-21)**

The disciples are talking about bread for the stomach and Jesus is talking about bread for the soul.

* Why does Jesus seem to be frustrated by the disciples?
* What is the ‘yeast’ (or in some versions ‘leaven’) referred to in his warning about, ‘the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod’?

The passage concludes with the words, ‘Do you still not understand?’

* Can we identify with the disciples? Are there things we don’t understand about God, his purposes in the world today and our place in his plan?

Pray for one another, that we may grow deeper in our understanding of God and his ways so that we too may be ‘overwhelmed with amazement’ at Jesus.

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