

When Things Go From Bad To Worse (Part 1)

Everyone deserves a second chance:

Mark 8:1-15, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Romans 12:1-2, Judges 7:2, Matthew 23:27-28

This is a Jesus who:

- Knows we don't have what **it takes**, but still asks for what **we have**.
- Does not **need us**, but delights in **using us**.
- Shows his past **faithfulness** as a promise for future **faithfulness**.
- Knows just a little **hypocrisy** can corrupt the **whole**.

Three lessons from watching a rerun:

Mark 8:1-15, Exodus 19 & 32, Matthew 12:38-41

- 1) When asking for a **sign** from God, we may be getting the **silence** of God.
- 2) Instead of asking for a **sign**, let's get rid of our **sin**.
- 3) The mark of a real follower is not **knowledge** or **attendance**, but a **changed heart**.

Food for Thought for the week of June 16, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. In this weekend's message, we heard another story about Jesus feeding thousands of people in a place where food was scarce. Though the disciples had recently witnessed Jesus feeding the 5,000, they still asked him where anyone could get enough bread to feed the crowd. What are some reasons you can think of for why the disciples asked this question after everything they had already seen?

Can you think of any times in your life when you've had a similar response to something Jesus was asking you to do?

2. In this weekend's passage, the Pharisees tried to test Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven to prove the truth of his messages and claims of divine identity and authority. Jesus is clearly annoyed with the Pharisees for asking for a sign. Why do you think it was wrong for them to be asking for hard evidence of who Jesus was?

Can you think of a time in your life when you were asking for a sign, and instead got the silence of God? How did you respond?

3. Despite the multitude of signs and miracles that Jesus had performed, the Pharisees remained unwilling to accept the evidence as presented. In John 14:5-11, Jesus went a different direction to help the disciples understand who he was. How might you use this passage to strengthen your own faith or that of a new believer?

(NIV – New International Version)

John 14:5-11 - ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^a my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

What stories from your own life can you think of as examples of having truly seen evidence of who Jesus is?