

The Gospel of Mark  
Willful Defiance and Stubborn Hearts  
Mark 8:1-21

We have been conditioned to think that repetition is a sign of laziness or a lack of creativity. We have online access to a thesaurus so that we will not have to use the same word twice in a paragraph. But repetition is a good teacher. Through repetition we learn our times tables, the table of elements, the English language, the words to our favorite songs, and more. Through repetition we memorize Scripture, but even more importantly, through repetition, we learn both knowledge and application of Jesus' character and gospel.

1. Jesus is the One who satisfies.
  
2. Jesus is the point of the signs.
  
3. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

In salvation we don't just get the things Jesus gives us. We get Jesus, and according to Him, that is all we really need. Whether we have seven loaves, five loaves, or one loaf, Jesus is always enough. No matter how long we have known Him, and no matter how closely we are walking with Him, we all need to be reminded on a regular basis of the necessity and sufficiency of Jesus for both now in the temporal world and for later in the realm of eternity. Pray.

For further consideration:

How is Jesus' compassion and concern for the physical needs of the Gentile crowd indicative of His concern for our spiritual state? When we are faced with an impossible situation and we want to turn it over to God, how do we go about doing that? What does that even look like? How do these miraculous feeding episodes serve as a sign of the inauguration of the kingdom of God? What, if any, is the difference between testing God in faith and testing God in unbelief? What can we do to constantly and consistently remember what God has already done, both in the cross and in our everyday lives? Take some time to consider what God has done for you and spend time remembering His goodness and faithfulness toward you.