

CouplesInBloom.com – When God Sighed

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Mark 7:32-35 ⇨ “And they brought a deaf one to Him (Jesus), hardly speaking. And they begged Him to put His hand on him. And He took him aside from the crowd and put His fingers into his ears. And He spat and touched his tongue. And looking up to Heaven, He **sighed** and said to him, Ephphatha! (that is, Be opened!) And instantly his ears were opened and the bond of his tongue was loosened, and he spoke plainly.”

Mark 8:11-12 ⇨ “And the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking a sign from Heaven from Him, tempting Him. And He **sighed deeply in His spirit** and said, Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly I say to you, There shall no sign be given to this generation. And He left them. (*Jesus left some people and so should we*).

Mark 8:13-21 ⇨ “And entering into the boat again, He departed to the other side. And the disciples had forgotten to take loaves, and they did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. And He charged them, saying, Take heed! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no loaves. And knowing it, Jesus said to them, **Why do you reason** that it is because you have no loaves? **Do you not yet perceive** nor understand? Have you still hardened your heart? Do you have eyes and do not see? Do you have ears and do not hear? And **do you not remember?** When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many hand baskets full of fragments did you take up? They said to Him, Twelve. And when the seven among four thousand, how many lunch baskets full of fragments did you take up? And they said, Seven. And He said to them, **How do you not understand?”**

Just because God is the only God does *not* mean everything is easy for Him. We need to remember this to help keep ourselves humble and to keep a proper reverence for God. Look at the long-suffering and patient exhortation Jesus exercises towards his disciples in the above verses. **God asks Christians a question here, which is best asked in a sigh: ‘WHY are you missing the point?!’** As reading the rest of the Bible reveals, the answer to Jesus’ question is: **the immaturity of the disciples**. Jesus’ asking those hard questions was part of His discipling His disciples... part of their education in righteousness.

Hard questions are holy (proper, whole, entire, perfect). Job 38:2 ⇨ “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?” **Here God asks Job** (of whom He told satan there was, “no one like him in the earth, a perfect and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil.” ⇨ Job 1:8) **why he was saying ignorant statements**. The answer is that every one of us has a lot more to learn. This is why the Bible says:

- “He who has knowledge uses few words; a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.” ⇨ Proverbs 17:27.
- “Do not be rash with your mouth, and do not let your heart be hasty to say a word before God. For God is in Heaven, and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few.” ⇨ Ecclesiastes 5:2.
- “In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking; but he who holds back his lips is wise.” ⇨ Proverbs 10:19. **Get Jesus’ point: be disciplined before speaking conclusions.** ♥