

Most of the events in Mark up until now have centered on the Sea of Galilee. The book records no less than six journeys the Lord takes across the sea in a boat. The trip recorded here in verses 13-22 is the last one. From verse 31 on, His face is set toward Jerusalem. He will not sail on Galilee again (at least not before He returns).

Jesus uses the boat for much more than transportation. He preaches from it. He escapes in it from the crushing crowds. He calms the sea and walks across the water to the disciples, proving His title of Messiah. And here He fashions a lesson from the disciple's worries about a shortness of bread. On each transit across the lake, He is

either in the boat with them or, as shown in Mark 6:48, watching them from on high.

There is nothing quite so self sufficient as a boat. An ocean ship must carry everything needed to sustain its passengers except for air. Here is a picture of the Christian's journey. We may be ashore much of the time, among the crowds of the world, but our best times can be when we are in the boat, two or three, apart from the world and gathered with Christ. Then even One Loaf is enough. *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"* (John 6:35).

Questions:

1. Both the Gentile woman in the last chapter and the Pharisees here are looking for a miracle from Jesus. What is different about the two cases?
2. Why does the Lord leave them without a sign?
3. What is the leaven of the Pharisees? of Herod?
4. In verses 17-21 the Lord asks the disciples a series of questions. Explain what the Lord is saying here. What are His main points?

5. What lessons are we to learn from the miracle of the healing of the blind man from Bethsaida in verses 22-26?
6. When Jesus was here on the earth doing miracles, the people did not know who He was. Is it the same way today some 2,000 years later? If so, why is it that way?
7. Why doesn't Jesus want his disciples to tell others that He is the Christ?
8. In verse 31, the Lord refers to Himself as the Son of Man and tells the disciples what will happen to Him. Why do you think Peter begins to rebuke the Lord in verse 32?
9. Explain verse 33.