

The Heart And The Belly

MARK 7:24-37 (vs 37) 8:1-9

(1)

Intro. **A.** Jesus knew that all people are made in the image of God.

vs. 15 **1. Mind** - "Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:", vs. 16 "Are ye so without understanding also?", vs. 18. "Do ye not perceive?" The mind must be ouched by truth. We must open our minds, deepen our understanding, sharpen our perception, to God's truths.

2. Heart - (soul) The soul must be ouched by God. Many things may enter the belly but no matter how sanctified the day, no matter how saturated the bread by prayer, no matter how somber the special day, they will not change the man. vs. 21

3. The Belly (flesh) vs. 19 The belly is not without importance. We are to care for it. We must grant its legitimate claims. We can honor its impulses and satisfy the claims that rise from nature's needs.

B. Some truths we must know.

1. The Spirit (heart) can be born again. In fact, it must be born again. John 3:3

John 3:6 **2. The flesh** cannot be born again.

Roms. 8:4-7 **3. The flesh** will never submit to God.

Gal. 5:19-23 **4. The flesh** and the Spirit bear different fruit.

C. We live in the flesh but not after the flesh.

Therefore: **1. We** should take care of our flesh.

2. Our fleshly relationships are important to us.

3. Sickness, death, dying are all overwhelming.

4. The next verses teach us these truths.

III. Jesus Saw The Needs Of The Flesh. (2.)

A. Jesus and a hungry multitudes.

- Vs. 1 1. "...the multitude being very great..."
2. "...three days and have nothing to eat".
- Vs. 2 3. Jesus had compassion = σπλαγχνισμός,
"to feel an inward yearning", "to feel pity".

B. Why didn't Jesus send them home?

- Vs. 3 1. They had come from a long distance.
2. They were weak from hunger.

C. The problem as seen by His disciples.

- Vs. 4 1. What can be done in the wilderness?
Vs. 5 2. They had only 7 loaves.

D. Jesus fed the multitude.

- Vs. 6 1. The command of Jesus.
Vs. 7 2. There were a few small fishes.
Vs. 8 3. They all ate and were filled.
Vs. 9 4. When they had eaten He sent them home.

IV. Some Lessons to Learn.

A. The flesh is important.

1. It houses our spirit's.
2. It must be nourished and cared for.
3. It is weak and undependable.

B. The flesh is not the way to the spirit.

1. Jesus never fed the multitude to lure them to Himself. He did after three days of hunger.
2. He did not institute a regular program.
3. He fed them and sent them home.
4. He never promised them anything future.