

Inspirational Nuggets

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FAITH in the Life of the Christian . . . and not just a one-time faith!:

Recently, I was talking with a person who was feeling pressured about a situation that she and her family were facing. It was obvious, by the things she said, that time was getting short, and an answer from God was sorely needed.

It got me thinking about situations of need that we all face from time-to-time. In those times, when the need seems so real and present, and an answer doesn't appear to be close at hand, how much trust will we have in God, that He will help take care of that need?

One of the biggest faith-boosters we can lean on, at those times, comes to us through some words in **Mark 8:14-21**. (*If you want to take a moment to read those verses, they are at the bottom of this nugget.*) Here, Jesus is trying to convey some spiritual wisdom to His disciples, and He uses "yeast" as a word picture. The disciples mistakenly think that Jesus is talking to them about the lack of bread they have with them on their boat. In the midst of His reply (well, it was actually more like a stiff correction), Jesus reminds them of this truth: *If they would only recall the **past** mighty deeds He had done to answer the need for bread, they would not have to be concerned with a **present** need for bread.* And then, believing that Jesus could meet the present need, they could move on to fully participate in what He was teaching, or doing, at that moment.

In that one present moment, they could either be preoccupied with the present need, or be preoccupied with His present work. Faith (recalling His past power, that could still meet present needs) would allow them to do the latter. **In your present time of need, won't you choose to recall how a faithful God helped you before, and will help you again?** Only then will you be set free to be preoccupied with what He is doing, and not be preoccupied with the need of the present.

Mark 8:14-21 --

14. *The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.*
15. *"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."*
16. *They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."*
17. *Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?"*
18. *Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?*

19. *When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"*

Twelve," they replied.

20. *"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"*

They answered, "Seven."

21. *He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"*