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# SETTING SAIL

## Stay the Course

We have been unpacking the vision for the year ahead and how we believe that God is asking us to set sail into uncharted waters – to go to places and people that we haven't been to before. Jesus is inviting us to cross over with Him, to hoist our sails and let the wind of His Spirit take us in a new direction and it's all hands on deck to partner with Him.

We believe now is the time to look beyond the four walls of the church, to honour the past by building the future, and see what God is calling us to as we assess and try to meet the

- + needs of our local community
- + as we endeavor to pastor the city of Brisbane
- + and release revivalists to the nations of the world.

We have been looking at this interesting time in the ministry of Jesus with His disciples, where Jesus is really trying to teach His disciples that they are a part of God's coming kingdom. Jesus has been demonstrating to them that when He is with them anything is possible, and that the Kingdom is good news for everyone.

When Jesus is with us it gives us the courage to not be overcome by fear but continue to step into what He has for us as we go with His presence. We can be smack bang in the middle of God's will for us and about to see an incredible breakthrough and still experience a storm that could derail us from His mission and the breakthrough that will come if we surrender to the fear that the enemy will try to instill in us.

### Good News for Everyone – Mark 8:11-21

The Kingdom of God that Jesus ushered in, looked nothing like what everyone else thought it should look like and it was coming for a people far wider than who they thought it was coming for. The Pharisees didn't get it, Herod certainly didn't get it and the disciples didn't get it either.

Jesus talks about bread but quickly moves on to what He expects His disciples to know, see and hear and, more importantly, what is in their hearts.

Jesus goes on to ask some pretty hard questions of the disciples, and that may have been difficult for them to hear. But I think He is still asking us the same questions today! Are we prepared to stay the course?

Jesus reminds them again of the message of the loaves. The disciples can't break out of their all-too-human view of Jesus and cannot comprehend that the Kingdom is good news breaking in for everyone.

## Stay the Course

Staying the course requires keeping the right sort of kingdom-vision.

**Yeast of the Pharisees** – the religious spirit that rejects the supernatural work of Jesus and that His kingdom is for everyone. They wanted to dilute Jesus' kingdom vision to set up a kingdom that was for the benefit of Jews who can observe the law, not for the benefit of the people on the other side of the lake.

**Yeast of the Herod** – the kingdom of this world (1 John 2:16). They wanted God to set them up as the royal family, as the true Kings of Israel.

As we set sail, as we head towards uncharted waters, if we want to stay the course, we cannot afford to be distracted by a different vision of what the kingdom looks like.

Distraction and lack of understanding can take you off course to accomplishing God's mission. Unbelief makes us blind to truth readily available and in front of us.

## **Do You Understand?**

Jesus channels His frustration in a way that challenges the disciples. He asks them eight pointed questions to bring understanding to what He is demonstrating.

Jesus is saying, My Kingdom is for all people, I'm here to feed everyone, that's what My Father wants you to know. That's also the invitation to the church. Will you go to the lost and allow My Kingdom to bring transformation?

Jesus is offering us a new way of living – let's go! Let's set sail and let Him take us to a people who need the breaking in of His Kingdom. He will provide everything we need.

Don't get distracted from what the vision of His Kingdom looks like.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you understand that you have a part to play in the vision? What does it look like when the wind of His Spirit catches your sail?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe what you picture the yeast of the Pharisees (religious spirit), and the yeast of Herod (kingdom of the world) might look like today?

3. How do we get distracted away from the true kingdom vision that was Jesus' mission?

4. Which of the following questions might Jesus be asking you? Share your response to the group.

- + Are you drifting in your faith?
- + Are you distracted by the kingdom of this world?
- + Are you caught in a religious spirit that's more consumed with you than My mission?
- + Do you know what it is like to live by the daily bread I'm offering?
- + Do you believe that the world needs you?
- + Have you hoisted your sail?
- + Where's My Spirit blowing?
- + Are you sharing your story of transformation?

5. This week there are people in your world only you can reach. Will you reach them? There are prayers for people who do not know God that only you can pray. Will you pray? There is a story that you have with Jesus that no one else has ever had that only you can tell. Will you tell it?