

TEXT: Mark 8:14-21

THEME: "The Trail of God's Bread"

I. THE TRAIL OF GOD'S BREAD LEADS TO TESTING

Testing is about Timing

Psalm 78:23-25

[23] Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; [24] he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. [25] Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Psalm 78:32

In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.

Testing is about Direction

II. TRAIL OF GOD'S BREAD LEADS TO THE GOSPEL

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?"

The trail of bread leads us to Jesus
the hope that is bigger than all of our fears
the strength that is stronger than weakest weakness
the forgiveness that blots out all of our sins

John 6:47-51

[47] I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. [48] I am the bread of life. [49] Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. [50] But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. [51] I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

The trail leads us to the Sacrament of the Altar

1 Cor 10:16b...

And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

III. TRAIL OF BREAD LEADS TO SHARING BREAD

Bread that fills the stomach

Isaiah 58:6-7

[6] "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? [7] Is it not to share your food with the hungry

Matthew 25:34-35

[34] "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...'"

Bread that fills the soul

GOSPEL – *John 6:33-35*

[33] For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

[34] "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

[35] Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.