

2. Jesus warned his disciples again the “yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.” What does that mean, and what might be some modern day parallels?

3. What types of people tend to get “ruled out” in our culture or circles? How does Jesus’ teaching and example tell us about his perspective?

4. Pray and ask the Lord to show you what you need to *know* and what you need to *do* in response to what you’ve heard and read this week. Write here what comes to mind. Share your answer with your group if appropriate.

IN YOUR GROUP

In your Cornerstone Community group this week, discuss your answers to the ON YOUR OWN questions. In a one-hour online group session, you might spend a 10-15 minutes catching up, 40 minutes talking through the discussion questions above, and 15-20 minutes praying for one another and planning ways the group can meet needs and serve others.

For your regular giving, give online at [CORNERSTONENH.ORG/GIVE](https://cornerstonenh.org/give) or text the amount you want to donate to 84321. Checks can be sent to our mailing address below. Through your generosity you're playing a part in more people saying “YES!” to Jesus!

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Watch, listen & more at [CORNERSTONENH.ORG](https://cornerstonenh.org)
Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011
Voice or Text: 603-225-2550
Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



YOUR NAME: _____ 07/18/2021

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

TODAY'S MESSAGE ACCEPTANCE

TODAY: ACCEPTANCE • MARK 7:1-8:21

THE BOTTOM LINE

**YOU ARE ALL _____
OF GOD _____ IN**

For you are all children of God through
faith in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:25 NLT

THE ROMAN CHURCH OF PETER & MARK'S DAY FACED

**INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PRESSURES THAT COULD FRACTURE
THE COMMUNITY**

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila...who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome.
– Acts 18:1-2 NLT

This deportation is mentioned by the Roman historian Suetonius in *De Vita Caesarum* (*The Life of the Caesars*) notes that “Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, [Claudius] expelled them from Rome.” Chrestus was a common name for slaves, but here is probably a corruption of *Christ*, making the disturbances among the Jews one with the kind often seen in the New Testament writings over how to reconcile the new faith with its Jewish roots. Many of these conflicts centered around Jewish religious and cultural practices such as circumcision and dietary rules.

Claudius was the fourth Roman emperor and ruled from 41-54 A.D. There is some debate about the date, but most likely the Jewish community was expelled from Rome in the late 40s and was able to return after Claudius's death, the beginning of the reign of his successor and adopted son, Nero.

This means the nascent church in Rome probably started out culturally Jewish, then was bereft all its Jewish members for years, then had to reintegrate as a Christian congregation of Jewish & Gentile believers. Then within a decade they faced together the persecution under Nero which forms the context for the publication of the Gospel of Mark.

**THE GOSPEL UNITES THE CHURCH AROUND JESUS, THE
JEWISH MESSIAH AND THE TRULY DIVINE SON OF GOD**

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.
– Mark 1:1a NLT

JESUS IS THE **PROPHET LIKE MOSES**
& THE PROMISED **GOOD SHEPHERD KING LIKE DAVID**

Please appoint a new man as leader...Give them someone who
will guide them wherever they go...so the community of the
Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd.
– Numbers 27:16b-17 NLT

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. – Psalm 23:1 NKJV

JESUS IS THE **KING** WHO
SECURES HIS VICTORY THROUGH THE **CROSS**

As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, "Watch out!
Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod."
– Mark 8:15 NLT

Jesus' ultimate work was the atoning sacrifice of the cross. Through apparent
"weakness" he establishes God's Kingdom forever. Participation in the kingdom is
extended through faith in Christ Jesus. The Pharisees and the Herodians represent
two failing alternatives to kingdom-building.

The Pharisees sought to earn God's favor through rigorous obedience to God's
commands. This performance-based acceptance is called legalism (defining who's
in and who's out based on man-made rules), which leads to judgmentalism
(judging who's in and who's out based on these rules), and hypocrisy (because
you can never admit you didn't perfectly keep the rules or you'd lose your place).

The Herodians sought power by aligning themselves with the kingdom in power at
the time, trying to bring about kingdom objectives through the world's structures.
This leads to compromising ethics for the sake of political power.

**JESUS BREAKS DOWN THE WALLS THAT THREATENED TO
DIVIDE THE CHURCH BY BASING OUR ACCEPTANCE BEFORE
GOD IN HIS SACRIFICE RATHER THAN OUR PERFORMANCE**

MARK 7:1-23

IDENTIFY WITH JESUS, NOT _____

Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he
prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me
with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...Food doesn't go
into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then
goes into the sewer.'" (By saying this, he declared that every kind
of food is acceptable in God's eyes.) – Mark 7:6, 19 NLT

MARK 7:24-30

IDENTIFY WITH JESUS, NOT _____

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, Jesus told her,
"First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't
right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

"Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the
children's crumbs." – Mark 7:26-28 NLT/NIV
For you are all children of God through
faith in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:25 NLT

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and
female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:28 NLT

MARK 7:31-36

DON'T RULE OUT _____

Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the
Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. – Mark 7:31 NLT

Saying "YES!" to Jesus? Text **YES** to **603-225-2550**
*Let us celebrate your decision
& resource you for your new life in Christ.*

MARK 8:1-21

"I have compassion for these people; they have already been
with me three days and have nothing to eat. – Mark 8:2 NLT

Don't you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too
hard to take it in? 'You have eyes—can't you see? You have ears—
can't you hear?' – Mark 8:17b-18a NLT

Too much can be made of numbers in the Bible, but here Jesus explicitly points to
the numbers and encourages the disciples to make a connection. Twelve points to
the twelve tribes of Israel. Seven is the number of completion, and can be
associated with the Gentile world. The focus in last week's and this week's
passages from the Gospel of Mark, first on Jesus as the prophet like Moses and
good shepherd king like David followed immediately by his ministry among the
Gentiles, powerfully points to Jesus as the anointed king for which the Jewish
people were longing, and as the divine Son of God the Roman emperors could
only pretend to be. Together we make up the united people of God, which can
only be complete as we join together under the banner of Jesus our King, united
and accepted on the basis of his sacrifice.

THE CHALLENGE

**FIND YOUR _____ IN
JESUS _____ .**

ON YOUR OWN

Answer these questions this week to reflect and go deeper.
TALK IT OVER with friends right now, using the
questions highlighted in **bold**.

- 1. How is finding acceptance through faith in Christ Jesus
different than than tribal or performance-based
acceptance?**