How is Your Spiritual Perception?

Scripture: Mark 8:1-21

Also: Mark 10:45; Matthew 6:25-34

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. Read Mark 8:1-10, where Jesus had compassion on the crowd of hungry people and fed them miraculously.
   - What are some other responses He could have had?
   - Have you ever felt like Jesus is not seeing you or your needs?
   - What have you done in those times?
   - How do you reconcile the truth that Jesus sees us and our needs, and has compassion on us, but does not always meet our needs? (Be careful with this one. If it stirs emotion in someone, be a vessel of Jesus' compassion to them. Don't run over people with the truth but look for ways to be a healing presence.)
3. Read Mark 8:11-13. The Pharisees came out to attack Jesus, demanding some sort of verification of His authority. Remember that they had already seen Him perform miracles and been critical of His ministry, even assigning His work to demonic power.
   - Is there something inherently wrong with seeking evidence of the truth? (No) Why or why not? (The problem seems to be their underlying attitude and unwillingness to believe when presented with the truth.)
   - The Pharisees and Herod were very different - how is it that Jesus put them together in this warning? What similarity did they have?
   - Is anyone immune from that same kind of attitude?
   - If it is ok to seek evidence, how can you avoid their disbelieving approach to Jesus?
4. Read Mark 8:14-21. Though Jesus' train of thought was indeed hard to follow, it was clear the disciples were not understanding Him.
   - Why did He respond differently to the disciples than to the Pharisees?
   - How do you respond to Jesus when you are confused?
   - If you were there in the boat with them, how would you respond to Jesus final question, "Do you not yet understand?"

- ***Pray that your trust and faith in God will grow, and that you individually and we as a church can be channels of His compassion to others!***