

## **The Gospel of Mark**

### **The Willing Blindness of the Pharisees**

Mark 8:10-13

1. **A Demand From \_\_\_\_\_**  
Jesus has been absent from the land of Israel for several months, and as soon as He returns to the region of Galilee He is confronted by a group of local Pharisees (Mk. 8:11). The Pharisees had a history of antagonism toward Jesus and His message (Mk. 2:16, 23-24; 3:1; 7:5) and now this local contingent of Pharisees likewise showed their hostility toward Jesus by engaging in an argument with Him. They sought a sign from Him in order to verify whether or not He was sent from God (Deut. 13:1-5).
  
2. **A Rebuke of \_\_\_\_\_**  
Mark describes Jesus as thoroughly exasperated by the persistence of the Pharisees antagonistic disbelief (Mk. 8:12a). Jesus responds by first asking why they want to see a sign when He had recently performed an amazing sign in their region (cf. Mk. 6:33-44). Jesus rebuffs their request and refuses to give them the sign that they are requesting (cf. Mt. 12:38-42). "This generation" would not believe any sign that Jesus would do because they had not believed what God had already said and what Jesus had already done (cf. Lk. 16:31).