

## MIRACLES OF JESUS

### FEEDING 4,000 - MARK 8:1-10

- A. Jesus spoke with His disciples concerning the need to feed a large crowd (1-4)
1. Jesus had compassion on the crowd concerning their physical needs (1-3)
    - a. A great crowd gathered again (1a), *In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat,*
      - 1) It was a reminder of when Jesus fed the 5,000.
      - 2) Reasons why this is not that same miracle.
        - a) The 5,000 took place in the district of Bethsaida, northeast of the Sea of Galilee but this event took place in the region of Decapolis, further to the south.
        - b) The 5,000 had been with Jesus one day but these had been with Him 3 days.
        - c) The 5,000 came from the immediate area but many of the 4,000 came from far away.
        - d) The 5,000 were fed with 5 loaves, 2 fishes with 12 baskets left over but we will soon see something different.
        - e) Jesus refers to these two events as two separate occasions in Matthew 16:9-10 and Mark 8:19-21.
    - b. Jesus shared with His disciples concern for the people (1b-3), *he called his disciples to him and said to them, 2 I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.*
      - 1) Jesus had compassion for the crowd because they had not eaten for 3 days.
        - a) Jesus showed compassion throughout His ministry.
          - 1] For the widow at Nain morning the loss of her son, Luke 7:13, *And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."*
          - 2] For blind Bartimeus and his friend, Matthew 20:34, *And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.*
          - 3] For crowds, Matthew 9:36, *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*
        - b) Charles Ryrie, *Physical needs and afflictions moved the heart of the Savior, and moved him to do something about them.*
      - 2) Jesus has a heart of compassion and a nature that can meet any need.
        - a) As a man, Jesus knows the needs of human beings, Hebrews 4:15, *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
        - b) As God, Jesus can supply all of our needs, Matthew 6:33, *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
        - c) Charles Ryrie, *Man cannot miraculously feed more than four thousand people, but God can. And so only one who is both God and man could know and do what was needed in this instance.*
  2. The disciples did not know what to do concerning such a great need (4), *And his disciples answered him, How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?*
    - a. The disciples asked Jesus how could so many people be fed.
      1. In Mark 6:37, they wanted to send the people away.
      2. Now, they ask Jesus what could be done?
    - b. Why don't the disciples remember how Jesus provided for the 5,000?
      - a. They still had not grasped who Jesus truly is.
      - b. When difficulties arise, they look for human solutions instead of looking to Jesus Who has all authority.
      - c. Several months had passed since the feeding of the 5,000 and all they could think of now is the problem not the solution.

- d. Thomas Constable, *...depending on Jesus rather than relying on self is a very difficult lesson to learn especially when one has a limited perception of who Jesus is.*
  - e. Charles Ryrie, *Their apparent lack of faith seems hard to explain—or does it? Do we not do the same thing? The Lord does something special for us in meeting a particular need or desire. We are filled with gratitude, realizing full well that only he could have arranged the answer to the need. Then another need arises. With the new emergency comes the same question: what shall I do? Faith shrinks. The obstacle grows. The memory lapses. We wonder how this new need will ever be met. We forget that all our Lord has done for us in the past is an indication of his continuing love and care of us...The Christ who can feed five thousand can surely feed four thousand. The Christ who can save us can surely care for us.*
- B. Jesus directed the crowd to sit on the ground and had the disciples distribute food to the large number of people (5-9a)
1. Jesus blessed the seven loaves of bread and they were distributed to the crowd (5-7), ***And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them.***
    - a. *How many loaves do you have?* Jesus’ question accomplished several purposes:
      - 1) It made them realize that they could meet the need on their own.
      - 2) Hopefully, it reminded them of Jesus’ previous miracle and their need to trust Him.
      - 3) It pictures the way God uses us to serve others
        - a) Charles Ryrie, *He uses what we offer to him, multiplies it to meet the need, and employs our hands in administering those gifts.*
        - b) William Taylor, *Jesus could have created food out of nothing but He chose to use what was available and make it sufficient. That is how He works in and through us.*
    - b. *having given thanks*
      - 1) Jesus blessed the bread as He did when He fed the 5,000.
      - 2) If the Son of God gives thanks for daily needs, so should we.
      - 3) Unknown writer, *Giving thanks keeps us from regarding a plate of food as a trough, our stomachs as bottomless pits, and our gathering to eat as a bothersome interruption.*
    - c. *Gave them*
      - 1) Jesus kept on giving the food to the disciples.
      - 2) The miracle happened in His hands as a reminder that Jesus is the bread of life, John 6:35, *Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*
      - 3) This pictures the coming time when Christians are to take the Lord’s Supper, 1 Corinthians, 11:23-26, *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*
  3. The 4,000 people ate and were satisfied and seven baskets full of broken pieces were collected (8-9a), ***And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9 And there were about four thousand people.***
    - a. The crowds’ physical needs were met with food to spare.
    - b. Jesus’ provision is always sufficient, Philippians 4:19, *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
- C. Jesus sent the crowd away and He departed by boat with His disciples to Dalmanutha (9b-10), ***And he sent them away. 10 And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.***
- a. Jesus sent the people home.
  - b. Jesus and His disciples went to Dalmanutha, also called Magadan, on the western side of the lake.

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Jesus' provision of physical bread is only a picture of His future provision of the spiritual, Jesus is the bread of life, Charles Ryrie, *Everyone in that huge crowd got hungry again and soon. But those who eat the bread of life shall never hunger again.*
- B. When Jesus commands us to serve, He supplies the resources. One writer has noted, *While we may feel that our contribution to Jesus is meager, He can use and multiply whatever we give him, whether it is talent, time, or treasure. When we give our resources to Jesus, they are multiplied.*
- C. Jesus feeds all who are hungry and come to Him, Charles Ryrie, *The bread of life was offered to all, to the Jew first (in the feeding of the five thousand) and also to the Gentile (in the feeding of four thousand).*