

MARK 8:1-12

INTRO:

- Some differences between the feeding of the 5000 and the feeding here are;
- 5000 vs. 4000. In both cases the number recorded is of men only.
- The 5000 in Galilee near Bethsaida.
- The 5000 involved a predominately Jewish crowd, while here the crowd is predominately gentile.
- In the 5000 there were 5 loaves and two fishes, here there are 7 loaves and some fishes.
- With the 5000 the multitude had been with Jesus the full day, here they had been with Him for 3 days.
- 5000 they collected 12 small baskets, here 7 large, hamper type baskets. (Acts. 9:25)
- What a conference, the GREAT DECAPOLIS CONFERENCE; it must have been. The Decapolis Conference.
 - No transportation other than the fool. No building, no food, no air conditioning, no heating at night, no bedrooms, no showers, no toilets... fasting; The crowds could not stay away.

READ MARK 8:1-12

VS. 1 In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them,

- In those days, what days?
- At the onset of this section multitudes have followed and gathered around Jesus.
- Perhaps word from the demoniac, and of course, news of the recent healings stirred their attention for Jesus and their desire to see Him.
- Earlier, 5:17 they begged Jesus to leave their country. Now they have arrived at a better a more correct conclusion about Jesus.

VS. 2 "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.

- Notice like in Mt. 9:36-38 the compassion that Christ shows for the crowds.
- It is Jesus who sees, recognizes the need and then moves to help.
- The compassion of Christ is mentioned 4 X in Mark, and about 12 total in the 3 synoptic gospels.
- He cares for each one's need; He takes them into His heart and care. He is the Great Shepherd. Moses prophcied;
 - Num. 27:15-17; Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: ¹⁶ "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."
- He is displaying, manifesting the Heart of the Trinity.
- What had the multitude been nourishing on?

- **Were they living on the words of Jesus?**
 - **Mt. 4:4 Man shall not live on bread alone but every word..**
 - **Were they experiencing what was life for Jesus: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me. Jn. 4:34**

VS. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."

- **He would not have them faint along the way of life.**
- **1 Kings 19:7-??**

VS. 4 Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?"

- **How quickly we forget the goodness and mercies of God.**
- **Every past mercy of God is a prophecy of future mercies. He that has fed will feed again, He that has forgiven will forgive yet again.**
- **His compassions they fail not, they are new every morning, never tiring of us.**

VS. 5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."

- **Jesus goes to His disciples to supply the need of the hungry..**
- **The disciples must have had some bread of their own?**

VS.6 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude. VS. 7 They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before *them*.

VS. 8 So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.

- **The multitude ate and were filled, satisfied, content. The pharisees were never satisfied, the hard hearted are never satisfied with Jesus.**
- **For those who are true disciples there is nourishment enough, more than enough.**

VS. 9 Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away,

VS. 10 immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

- **Jesus had sent the crowd away "satisfied."**
- **The pharisee is never satisfied.**
- **They sail to the Western shore of the Sea of Galilee. To Dal-ma-nutha.**

VS. 11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.

- The Pharisees are still angry/jealous with Jesus. See His earlier comments in 7:1-23
- Here the Pharisees ask of Him for a sign. (Jesus is asked to give a sign at least 5 times in the gospels.)
- In the parallel passage in **Mt. 16:1-4**, this confrontation with the Pharisees Jesus calls them hypocrites because they could discern the weather, the sky, but not the times they lived in.
- Hypocrisy: a pretending to be what one is not. A concealment of one's true character or motives. The assuming of a false character. A counterfeiting of religion.
- In the Pharisee this hypocrisy took the form of false doctrine, pride and superiority.
- They talked the talk, but did not walk the walk.
 - (2: Tim. 3:5, having a form of godliness but denying its power.
- For them the Messiah stood right before them, their redeemer, and yet they hated Him and wanted to put Him to death.
- Do we, are we discerning the times of the seasons? The enemies and the warfare against our souls? The hour is late.
- Do we discern the times? Are we discerning the times and making adjustments?
- Jesus did tell them of a sign He would give them, His death and resurrection. Mt. 16:4, Mt. 12:39-40.
- He who spoke to them, who stood right in front of them was Himself the Sign. God incarnate, Emanuel.
- Even Nicodemus was more correct than he knew when he said in Jn 3:2; "We know you are a Teacher sent from God.
- The pharisee and unbending unbelievers want more evidence, more signs so they may be convinced or clearly see something that will take their doubt away, but it is not more light he needs, but more sight.
- God given sight, for unless you are born again you cannot see... But the pure in heart see God. (Mt. 5:8)
- For those who are unwilling to believe, though they see Jesus, Emanuel, or hear of more evidence of Him, they will not believe, though they ask for more signs they will not see and most likely do not want to see. They do not want to acknowledge their sin and need.
- He would not give a sign to the arrogant and proud Pharisees but to the humble, common, seeking man and woman, He gives them this sign. It is enough for them.
- He gives them the sign of the Shepherd. One who feeds, cares.

VS. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."

- Jesus sighed because of their hardness of heart. So unwilling they were to believe.
- So Jesus departs from these pharisees because their hardness of heart, man must be careful to take care of his heart condition.

CONCLUSION:

- In the feeding of the 4000 there is a picture of how we can be used by God, how to live a blessed life in Christ.

Vs. 6,7: And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before *them*.

- It is a picture of the work of God in the Soul and life of a disciple.
 - Notice the order and this order before Jesus gives His gift to the world.
- 1) First, we see Him taking up to Himself that which was given Him.
- Am I surrendered and have I intentionally put my life my all into the hands of Jesus?
 - Jn. 6:44; No man can come to me, except the Father draws him.
 - Those who My Father has given Me. JN.17
- 2) He then gave thanks for what the Father has given Him.
- Num. 6:25: The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
 - Zeph. 7:17; he LORD your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."
- 3) Then there is a breaking. Not my will but thine be done.
- A daily dying to self,
 - Mt. 16:24, 25; Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
 - Gal. 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- 4) And then in this breaking, we become fruitful and multiply and satisfy the need around us.
- JN. 15:5, 8; "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
 - Notice the order, surrender, ownership, authority, then blessing, then breaking, then usefulness, fruitfulness.

VS. 8 So they ate and were filled