

FROM WHENCE CAN A MAN SATISFY THESE MEN MARK 8:1-9

Text: Mark 8:4

Mark 8:4

⁴ And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these *men* with bread here in the wilderness?

Introduction:

Jesus is still in the Gentile country. He has been trying to teach His disciples the truth that no person in the world is off limits to the Gospel message. As religious Jews, the disciples would have been raised up to consider Gentiles off limits.

They would have been taught that they should have no contact with someone who was not a Jew. Jesus wanted His men to understand that He came into the world to save people, wherever they might be found.

To drive this truth home to them, Jesus took them into a predominately Gentile area. First, he healed the daughter of a Canaanite woman. Then, He healed a man who was deaf and who had a speech impediment.

As soon as that miracle is accomplished, Jesus began to teach the people the Word of God. When this passage opens, Jesus has been teaching this multitude for three days.

When He is finished, and Jesus is ready to send the multitudes away, He acknowledges the fact that the people have no food. He cannot send them away fasting. If He does, He knows that some might faint from hunger as they headed toward their homes.

So, Jesus does what He did earlier in His ministry.

Mark 6:34-44

³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time *is* far passed: ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. ³⁷ He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? ³⁸ He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. ³⁹ And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. ⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. ⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them* to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. ⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. ⁴⁴ And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

There are some clear similarities between this miracle and this one.

- Both miracles involved huge crowds
- Both miracles took place in a location where no food was available
- In both miracles Jesus used a small amount of food to feed a lot of people
- Both miracles involved the use of bread and fish
- In both miracles Jesus involved the apostles
- In both miracles the apostles doubted the Lord's ability to meet the need
- In both miracles the Lord took what He had, blessed it, and broke it
- In both miracles the bread and the fish were multiplied in the hands of the Savior
- In both miracles the crowds were entirely satisfied
- In both miracles a large amount of food was left over

While there a number of similarities there also several differences.

- The number of people fed is different
- The amount of bread used is different
- The amount of food left over is different
- The first miracle took place after a day of teaching; this one took place after three days teaching

Notice:

1. THE MULTITUDE AND THEIR NEED

These people have been with Jesus for three days.

Now, the teaching has ended and Jesus is ready to dismiss the service. He knows that the people have used up all their food and have nothing to eat on their journey to their homes.

According to verse 3, some of the people had traveled a long distance to hear Jesus.

Mark 8:3

³ And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

2. THE MASTER AND HIS COMPASSION

Mark 8:2

²I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

The Lord sees the crowds and He knew their need.

These people had been with Him for three days, now they are tired and hungry. He knows that they cannot possibly make the trip to their homes without dropping by the wayside from hunger.

Several times we read in the Gospels of the compassion of the Savior.

Matthew 9:36

³⁶But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 14:14

¹⁴And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 15:32

³²Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Matthew 20:34

³⁴So Jesus had compassion *on them*, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Mark 1:41

⁴¹ And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Mark 5:19

¹⁹ Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 6:34

³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 8:2

² I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

Luke 7:13

¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Luke 10:33

³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*,

Luke 15:20

²⁰ And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

We have a Savior who truly cares about our needs.

Psalms 34:15

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

3. THE MIRACLE AND ITS LESSONS

Having declared His desire to feed the multitudes, verse 3, Jesus is immediately met with doubt, verse 4. The disciples have already seen Jesus feed five thousand men besides women and children, and they still doubt His ability to do the impossible.

Mark 8:3-4

³ And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. ⁴ And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these *men* with bread here in the wilderness?

In verse 5, Jesus asks them the same question that He asked them the first time He miraculously fed the multitudes.

Mark 8:5

⁵ And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.

In the first miracle they went into the crowd to see how much food was available.

In this miracle, the disciples are called on to give up what little they have.

As He did the first time, Jesus took the small amount of food that was available, and thanked God for it. He then broke it and gave it to His men to give to the crowd. Just as it did the first time, the loaves and the

fishes multiplied as He broke them. The miracle took place in the hand of the Lord.

When the meal was finished and all were filled, verse 8, the disciples collected the leftovers. In the first miracle, they collected twelve baskets full. In this miracle, they collected seven baskets full, verse 8.

Mark 8:8

⁸ So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets.

There are several lessons we can learn from this miracle.

- This miracle reminds us that Jesus is more than sufficient to meet the needs that exist in His people's lives

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Philippians 4:13

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content*

with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Matthew 28:20

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

- This miracle reminds us that He has all that we need for the journey home
- This miracle reminds us that we are a people of little faith.

The disciples had already seen Jesus feed a greater crowd with less food, but they still doubted Him when this problem arose.

So often we are the same way! Those men should have looked at that crowd and said, “Folks, don’t worry! We know you are hungry, but we also know that Jesus has a plan to feed you.

How many times has the Lord come through for you?

How many times has He moved a mountain for you?

How many times has He brought you through your valley?

How many times has He come through for you when there seems to be no way through?

And how many times have you still doubted Him when the next trial came up in your life?

Oh, we are a people of small faith!

How much better off would we be if we could just learn to trust Him?

- This miracle teaches us that great things can happen if we can just get the need into His hands

A small amount of bread and fish became sufficient for a multitude because they got it into His hands.