

Bread in the desert: Mark 8.1-10

Thanks Kate for today's TFTD.



In today's TFTD we hear another amazing story of Jesus' miracle — the feeding of the four thousand. This is a different miracle from the feeding of the five thousand described in chapter 6. At that time those fed were mostly Jews. This time Jesus was ministering to a non-Jewish crowd in the Gentile region of the *Ten Towns*. Here, Jesus' actions and messages were beginning to have an impact on large numbers of Gentiles. And so Jesus' compassionate ministry to non-Jews was very reassuring to Mark's primarily Roman audience.

Sometimes we may feel that God is so busy with important concerns that he can't possibly be aware of our needs but just as Jesus was concerned about these people's need for food, he is concerned about our daily needs. "*Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs*" *Matt. 6:32*. And that nothing is too large for him to handle and no need too small to escape his interest.

So why is it that the disciples experience so many of Jesus' miracles and yet are so slow to comprehend who he was? For example, they had already seen Jesus feed over 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish, yet here they doubted whether he could feed another group. Notice, in both miracles Jesus took the little they had given thanks and multiplied it, the crowds ate and were completely satisfied and a large amount of food was leftover.

Sometimes in life, we may be like the disciples, slow to catch on. Though Christ has brought us through trials and temptations in the past, we may not always believe that he will do so in the future. In such times it is important to remember what Christ has done and have faith that he will do it again.

In the light of this passage it is important to remember that; The feeding of the 4,000 is not the same as the feeding of the 5,000, and it is good news for us. Jesus is the bread of life, not only for the Jews but also for us Gentiles.

Here are some reasons why Jesus may have multiplied the loaves and fish on two separate occasions:

The point here is that Jesus wants everyone to understand that he is the bread of life, the "bread from heaven" (Exodus 16:4). John tells us that following the first miracle, Jesus gave his great discourse on the bread of life.

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." **John 6:48-51**

Christ wants us to understand that he is not just *Bread* for the Jews. He is the 'bread of life' for us Gentiles as well. Some people may think that life is to do with possessing lots of materialistic

things. Whereas God is saying that “*Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” Matthew 4:4.

And finally, Jesus wants us to understand that “the supply always meets and exceeds the demand when we offer our lives, our gifts, and talents to God — God will always perform the miracles beyond our expectations. What is required of us is to put our faith and trust in him.”

There is always more than enough. “*And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.*” Mark 8:8. Christ is more than enough to satisfy the hunger of the world. Since multiplication and success are in the hands of God.

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