THE FEEDING OF THE 4000

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**DATE: 11/25/2018 SS**

**TEXT: Mark 8:1-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

Jesus is still in Gentile country (Decapolis)

I Believe Jesus is trying to teach His disciples the truth that no person in the world is off limits to the Gospel

As Jews, the disciples would have been raised to consider Gentiles off limits

They would have been taught that they should have no serious Relationship with someone who was not a Jew

Jesus wanted His men to understand that He came into the world to save people, whoever they were

To drive this truth home, Jesus takes them into a predominately Gentile area

First, he healed the daughter of a Canaanite woman up near Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean Sea

Then, He healed a man who was deaf and who had a speech impediment southeast of the Sea of Galilee in Decapolis

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 them away, He acknowledges the fact that the people have no food

Therefore, He does not want to send them away hungry

He’s says they will faint in the way

So, Jesus does what He did earlier in His ministry in **Mark 6:34-44** …

When He Feed another large crowd through a powerful miracle

There are some clear similarities between this feeding of the people and the first one (For Example)

-- Both miracles involved Large 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 disciples

-- In both miracles the disciples doubted the Lord's ability to meet the need

-- In both miracles Jesus asked the question, “*How many loaves have ye?*”

-- In both miracles, Jesus took what He had, and thanked God for it

-- In both miracles the bread and fish multiplied in the hands of Jesus

-- In both miracles the crowds were entirely satisfied

-- In both miracles a large amount of food was left over

While there are many similarities, there are also several differences between these miracles

-- The number of people fed is different; 5,000 vs. 4,000

-- The amount of bread used in this miracle is different; 5 loaves vs. 7 loaves

-- The amount of food left over is different; 12 small baskets vs. 7 large baskets

-- The first miracle took place after a day of teaching

This one took place after three days of teaching

-- In the first miracle Jesus was motivated by the *spiritual needs* of the crowd

**Mark 6:34 - *“…Jesus, … was moved with compassion … because they were as sheep not having a shepherd:…”***

In this miracle Jesus is motivated by the *physical needs* of the crowd

-- The first miracle was performed using food from an outside source

In this miracle, it appears that Jesus used what the disciples already possessed

-- The first miracle was designed to teach the disciples that Jesus was “*the Bread of Life*” for the Jews

This miracle is designed to teach them that Jesus is “*the Bread of Life*” for the world

Above all, this miracle reveals Jesus to be **The Saviour Who Cares**

It teaches us that

-- He cares about the spiritual side of our lives

-- As well as the Physical side of our lives

As we examine this miracle, I want you to catch a glimpse of **A Saviour Who Cares**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, Let’s look at …

**I. THE “MULTITUDE AND THEIR NEED” – vs. 1-3**

These people have been with Jesus for three days

**v. 2 – *“I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with Me three days, and have nothing to eat:”***

They are having an old-fashioned “camp meeting” and Jesus is the Preacher

Now, the Preaching has ended and Jesus is ready to dismiss the service

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

***“for divers (many) of them came from far”***

He knows that the people have used up all their food and will have nothing to eat on their way home

This crowd of people had a common human need that they could not meet themselves

A Need that only God could meet

**A. Our Physical Needs**

We all have physical needs that need to be meet

The most basic are Water, Food, Clothing and Shelter

We’ve all found ourselves in the same predicament as these folks, at some point in our lives

There are times when we have periods of physical, and material need

In all honesty, I sometimes hesitate to preach on our physical and material needs

Only because there is so much preaching that already centers on it (and it’s really not the most important)

But, still, we need to know that God cares!

The Bible is replete with God showing Himself mighty in meeting people’s needs

**1.** The children of Israel lacked food and water as they journeyed in the wilderness

**Exodus 16:3 – *“And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of …***

***the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger”***

**Exodus 17:2 –*“Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?”***

**2.** King David faced times when he had no food

**I Samuel 21:3 - *“Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present”***

**3.** Even Jesus knew the depths of poverty, hunger and thirst

**II Corinthians 8:9 – *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich”***

**Matthew 8:20 *– “And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head”***

**B. This Place of Suffering**

We all know that this world is a place of Suffering

The effects of Sin have caused mankind to Suffer

**Job 5:7 – *“Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward”***

**Job 14:1 – *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble”***

Most people in this room are familiar with the agony of physical pain

Most have known the uncertainty and problems that come with financial stress

Some have lived through the torture of emotional and spiritual problems

Nearly everyone here knows what it means to hurt and to hurt deeply

Those are all common experiences

Solomon said it this way in **Eccl. 2:22, 23 - “*For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity”***

I think we all understand the truth that we all have Physical Needs in our lives

**THE “MULTITUDE AND THEIR NEED”**

**II. THE “MASTER AND HIS COMPASSION”**

**v. 2** says that Jesus had ***“compassion on them*”**

This means that *His heart went out to them*

**Compassion** is *sympathy coupled with a desire to help*

He was moved by their need and He decided to do something about it

**A. The Lord’s Interest**

**1.** Five times in the Gospels it is recorded that Jesus was **“*moved with compassion*”**

That’s what the writers of the Gospels said about Him

In this passage, Jesus says - **“*I have compassion on them*”**

This is a glimpse inside the heart of the Lord Jesus

He is telling His disciples that He sees their need and He is determined to do something about it

**2.** I praise the Lord that we serve a Saviour Who cares

Aren’t you?

**Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”***

**I Peter 5:7 – *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

That word **“*careth*”** in **I Peter 5:7** has the idea of *taking an interest in someone*

The Lord is interested in the things that affect our life!

**B. The Bible’s Example**

This kind of Concern and Compassion can be seen throughout the pages of the Word of God

We serve a God Who cares! Let’s See

**1.** Who here, would have cared about the needs of the nation of Israel?

All they did was gripe, complain and bellyache

Still, God cared about them!

He gave them food and water

He looked out for them

He subdued all their enemies

He performed miracle after miracle on their behalf

**2.** Who would have cared about a slave named Hagar and her son?

God did!

He came to her personal aid and provided all she needed to survive her wilderness experience

**3.** Who would have cared about a Gentile widow and her son who were starving to death?

God cared, and He sent a man of God to her house so that He might bless and use her to meet the need of Elijah

**4.** Hundreds of people died every day in Israel while Jesus was here

Who would have cared if a man named Lazarus, a little twelve-year-old girl, or the only son of a poor widow had died?

Jesus cared and He raised them all from the dead!

**5.** Who would have cared if a bunch of God-rejecting, Christ-hating sinners died and went to Hell?

God cared because He sent His Son to die for those sinners – **John 3:16**

We know Jesus cares, because He willingly took our place on the cross

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

**I Peter 2:24 – *“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed”***

**C. The Genuine Concern of God**

I praise the Lord that we serve a God Who genuinely cares about the needs of people

We should never hesitate to bring our needs to Him!

-- He knows our situation

**Job 23:10 – *“But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”***

-- He cares about our need

**Psalm 34:15 - “*The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry*,”**

-- He cares about you! (personally)

Jesus invites us to come to Him

**Matthew 11:28 – *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”***

-- We should heed His call and bring our needs to Him

He will help us in the time of our trouble

**Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”***

**Philippians 4:6, 7 – *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”***

**Psalm 46:1 – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”***

**THE “MULTITUDE AND THEIR NEED”**

**THE “MASTER AND HIS COMPASSION”**

**III. THE “MIRACLE AND ITS LESSONS”**

Having declared His desire to feed the multitudes in **v. 3**

Jesus is immediately met with doubt in **v. 4**

***“And His disciples answered Him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?”***

The disciples had already seen Jesus feed the 5000,

Yet, they’re still doubting His ability to do the impossible

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

He asks them **“*How many loaves have ye?*”**

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 divided them up

The miracle took place in the hands of the Lord

**v. 8** - When the meal was finished and everyone had their fill, the disciples collected the leftovers

In the first miracle, they collected twelve baskets full

**v. 8** - In this miracle, they collected seven baskets full

The baskets referred to in the First Miracle was a small basket that would hold an amount sufficient for one person

The word ***“basket”*** here refers to a basket large enough to hold a man

It is the same word used for the basket that some men used to lower Paul down the outer walls of the city of Damascus, when he needed to make a hasty escape in **Acts 9:26**

In this miracle, the amount of food that was left over was enormous!

It could possibly have been several hundred pounds!

There are several *lessons* we can glean from this miracle

Let me share some of them with you

**A. This miracle reminds us that Jesus is the universal Saviour**

When Jesus fed the five thousand in **Mark 6**, the crowd was made up of Jews

When this miracle is performed, the crowd is mostly Gentile

He wants His disciples to know that He came to save people from **“*every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people*,” – Rev. 14:6**

Yes, Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah,

But He also knew that the Jews would reject Him

**John 1:11 – *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not”***

Yes, Jesus came to Paid Sin’s debt for the Jew

**Matthew 1:21 – *“JESUS: … shall save His People from their sins”***

**Romans 1:16**–***“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”***

Jesus also came to give His life for ***“whosoever”*** would trust Him for salvation

**Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

He is the only Saviour,

**John 14:6 – *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

He is a universal Saviour – **John 3:16**

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

**Ephesians 3:20 – *“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,”***

**1.** He is able to meet the needs in our lives

**Matthew 6:31, 32 – *“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”
 “(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things”***

It does not matter how Tall your Giant; how Big your Mountain; how Deep your Valley;

He is more than sufficient for the need!

**2.** He is able to give you comfort through all the storms of life

**II Corinthians 12:9 – *“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”***

**3.** He is able to enable you to do His will

**Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

**4.** He will walk with you every mile of the way

**Hebrews 13:5b – *“for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

**5.** He is able to be exactly Who you need Him to be in all the stages of your life

**Psalm 37:25 – *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”***

**6.** His supply always meets or exceeds the need!

Only He can do that!

**C. This miracle reminds us that He has all that we need for the journey home**

(This isn’t our Home, we are just a passing thru)

When the people were filled, Jesus had His men collect the remnants of the meal and He sent the people away

What did they do with seven baskets full of food?

These baskets could hold a couple of hundred pounds each!

I am just speculating, but I think that the people were encouraged to take some with them so they would have enough along the way

He’s always dropping Hand Fulls on Purpose

**D. 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 yet, they still doubted Him when this problem came up again

God can’t teach us anything new until we learn the lesson, He’s trying to teach us now in our lives

He’ll just keep bringing us back around, until we get it!

Now, we are the same way!

Those men should have looked at that crowd and said,

“*Folks, don't worry! We know you’re hungry, …*

*… but we also know that Jesus will take care of it”*

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’re a people of little faith!

How much better off would we be if we could just learn to trust Him? (the first time)

**E. This miracle reminds us that God is not stingy**

He proved to be more than enough for those people

And it’s His desire to give you more than enough as well

They walked away Full

**v. 8 –** ***“So they did eat, and were filled”***

And they had more than enough to take with them

Our God is the God with more!

He has More Love; More Mercy; More Grace; More Blessings; More of Everything you will ever need!

Thank God, He has more!

**Luke 6:38 – *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”***

And people wonder why they don’t have anything

That’s because they don’t give anything

**F. 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

Do you have a need? Get it into His hands today!

Does your spiritual walk need to be restored and reinvigorated?

Get it into His hands today!

Whatever the need may be, get it into His hands today!

**CONCLUSION**

What are you looking at today?

Are you staring at an impossible situation wondering how it will turn out?

Get it to Jesus; He is the Saviour Who cares!

Are you lost and in need of a Saviour?

Do you understand that the only way you will ever be saved is to come to the Lord Jesus by faith?

Get it to Jesus; He is the Saviour Who cares!

Are your mountains high and your valleys deep today?

Does your heart break under the load it carries?

Get it to Jesus; He is the Saviour Who cares!

Whatever the need, if the Lord has spoken to your heart today, get it to Jesus;

He’s the Saviour Who cares!

**THE “MULTITUDE AND THEIR NEED”**

**THE “MASTER AND HIS COMPASSION”**

**THE “MIRACLE AND ITS LESSONS”**