

THE FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—April 16th, 2023

Mark 8:1-10

(ESV)

[1] In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, 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.” [4] And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” [5] And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” [6] 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. [7] And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. [8] 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. And he sent them away. [10] And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

INTRODUCTION

compassion = to suffer with

Galatians 6:2—Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The feeding of the five thousand—Jewish territory

The feeding of the four thousand—Gentile territory

There is enough compassion in Christ for anyone who will come to him for help.

JESUS’ COMPASSION

Notice the tender heart of Jesus.

Jesus is revealing here the heart of God.

‘*splagchnizomai*.’ = “I am moved in my inner parts.”

“The cumulative testimony of the four Gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it.” Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly

Your need is a magnet for Jesus’ compassion.

Psalm 22:24—For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

JESUS OFTEN DISPLAYS HIS COMPASSION THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

Even when we are walking closely with Christ, we can forget his power.

The disciples did not have much faith, but Jesus uses them anyway.

The disciples didn't have many resources, but Jesus uses them anyway.

Psalm 24:1—*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof...*

Psalm 50:10–12

*[10] For every beast of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*[11] I know all the birds of the hills,
and all that moves in the field is mine.*

*[12] "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fullness are mine.*

God accomplishes the impossible regardless of what we have to offer.

JESUS' COMPASSION SURPASSES OUR NEEDS

Jesus' miracles are always perfectly accomplished.

Deuteronomy 32:4—*"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."*

Psalm 18:30—*This God—his way is perfect...*

Philippians 4:19—*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Jesus' compassion will ultimately exceed all of our expectations.

Mark is developing here a theology of bread.

Bread reminds us of our constant need for provision, but bread also reminds us of our constant need for the provider.

Matthew 4:4—*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

John 6:35—*"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*