

What's For Dinner? (Mark 8:1-21)

Sunday Morning Service



Introduction

What's For Dinner?



The bounty of Christ is always ready. To show that, he repeated this miracle. His favours are renewed, as our wants and necessities are. And those need not fear want, who have Christ to live upon by faith, and do so with thanksgiving.

Matthew Henry's Concise
Commentary



I. The Feeding of the Four Thousand (1-9)

What's For Dinner?



1 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

Mark 8:1-4



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

Mark 8:1-4



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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.

Mark 8:1-4



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

Mark 8:1-4



Though the question here is the same as when He fed the five thousand, they evidently now meant no more by it than that they had not the means of feeding the multitude; modestly leaving the Lord to decide what was to be done.

JFB Commentary on
the Bible



And this will the more appear from His not now trying them, as before, by saying, “They need not depart, give ye them to eat”; but simply asking what they had, and then giving His directions.

JFB Commentary on
the Bible



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

Mark 8:5-9



6 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.

Mark 8:5-9



7 And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

Mark 8:5-9



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

Mark 8:5-9



9 And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.

Mark 8:5-9



Those who try to find contradictions in the Bible often confuse this miracle with the feeding of the 5,000 which is recorded in all four Gospels.

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



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Only Matthew and Mark record this event, and it is not difficult to distinguish it from the other miracle of the multiplying of bread and fish.

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



The first miracle took place in Galilee, near Bethsaida, and involved predominantly Jews.

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Exposition Commentary



This miracle took place near Decapolis and involved mostly Gentiles.

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Exposition Commentary



In the first miracle, Jesus started with five loaves and two fish, while here He had seven loaves “and a few fish.”

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



The 5,000 had been with Him one day, but
the 4,000 had been with him three days.

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



Twelve baskets of fragments were left over after the 5,000 were fed, but only seven baskets after the 4,000 were fed.

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



There were even two different kinds of baskets used: for the 5,000, small wicker lunch baskets (kophinos); for the 4,000, large hampers, big enough to hold a man (spuris, see Acts 9:25).

Wiersbee: The Bible
Exposition Commentary



II. Encounter with the Pharisees. (10-13)

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10 And straightway he entered into a ship
with his disciples, and came into the parts of
Dalmanutha.

Mark 8:10-13



11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.

Mark 8:10-13



12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

Mark 8:10-13



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13 And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

Mark 8:10-13



In the Old Testament a “sign” was not so much a demonstration of power as an evidence that an utterance or action was authentic and trustworthy.

Bible Knowledge Commentary



The Pharisees did not demand a spectacular miracle, but that Jesus give unmistakable proof that He and His mission were authorized by God. They believed quite the opposite (cf. 3:22).

Bible Knowledge
Commentary



Matthew's Gospel adds a reference to Jonah and Whale. This is because Matthew was writing to a Jewish audience who would have known this story, but Mark was writing to a Gentile audience who might not.



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38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

Matthew 12:38-40



39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:38-40



40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:38-40



III. Warning Against the Doctrine of the Pharisees. (14-15)

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14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.

Mark 8:14-15



15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

Mark 8:14-15



leaven: In the context of the Passover, leaven symbolizes all that must be removed from Israel when the nation transfers its allegiance from Pharaoh to God (Exod 12:15–20; Deut 16:3–4).

Faith Life Study Bible



The Pharisees demand a sign from heaven to clarify the source of Jesus' power in performing miracles, but he refuses to be tested.

The Eerdmans
Companion to the Bible



He warns the disciples of the corrupting influence (“yeast”) the Pharisees’ teaching has on true faith (v. 15). Mark lumps Herod together with the Jewish religious leaders as threats to Jesus’ life and mission.

The Eerdmans
Companion to the Bible



IV. Warning Against Lack of Faith. (16-21)

What's For Dinner?



16 And they reasoned among themselves,
saying, It is because we have no bread.

Mark 8:16-21



17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?

Mark 8:16-21



18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears,
hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

Mark 8:16-21



19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.

Mark 8:16-21



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20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven.

Mark 8:16-21



21 And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

Mark 8:16-21



Although Jesus does not rebuke them as hard-hearted “hypocrites” like the Pharisees and scribes (7:6), they still lack full understanding of who Jesus is.

ESV Study Notes



While the Pharisees reject Jesus' teaching outright, the disciples are slow to appreciate it.

ESV Study Notes



The figurative reference to eyes and ears echoes the healings of the deaf man (7:31–35) and the blind man (8:22–26).

ESV Study Notes



Jesus wants to open the “ears” and “eyes” of
the disciples’ hearts.

ESV Study Notes



So often, we do not really understand who Jesus is. If we did, we would not be worried! We need our spiritual eyes and ears opened to the reality of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What's For Dinner?



Elisha and the Widow's Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

What's For Dinner?



2 Kings 4:1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

2 Kings 4:1-7



2 Kings 4:2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

2 Kings 4:1-7



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2 Kings 4:3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

2 Kings 4:1-7



2 Kings 4:4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

2 Kings 4:1-7



2 Kings 4:5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

2 Kings 4:1-7



2 Kings 4:6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

2 Kings 4:1-7



2 Kings 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

2 Kings 4:1-7

