

God is the Savior of Jews *and* of Gentiles! He invites the nations and all peoples to worship Him!

- Psalm 86:9 - all nations whom you have made will come and worship you
- Psalm 117.1 - praise the LORD all nations
- Isa 66.18 - the time is coming to gather all nations to see God’s glory
- Isa 25.6 - God makes a banquet for ALL peoples on this mountain
- Romans 1.16-17! - Jew first & also for the Gentiles!
- Acts 15.19 - don’t trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles!!!!
- Acts 22.21 - GO, i will send you far away to the GENTILES
- Romans 15.9-12 and v.18 = the power of the Gentiles.
- EPH 3.8 - preach the unfathomable riches of Christ to the Gentiles

- Why the 2 feedings of multitudes? For 2 reasons:
- The feeding of the 5,000 = Jesus’ provision for the **JEW**S
- The feeding of the 4,000 = Jesus provision for the **GENTILES**

Don’t miss the context — Jesus is in Gentile area

- a. Appeal of the Syrophenician woman (Mk 7:24–30)
- b. Cure of the deaf stammerer (Mk 7:31–37)
- c. Feeding of the four thousand (Mk 8:1–10)
- d. Request for a sign from heaven (Mk 8:11–13)

One more interesting note: Jesus is the ultimate “**host**” - he serves his people, provides & tenderly and intimately communes with them. (The Greek has same verbs in each of these pericopes — feeding of 5,000 [Mk 6]; feeding of 4,000 [Mk 8] and the Lord’s Supper [Mk 14]).

THESIS — THIS ACCOUNT SHOWS THE PROVISION & SATISFACTION THAT JESUS OFFERS FOR GENTILES!

Jesus provides & satisfies —

I. WHEN THERE’S A NEED! (1)

The omniscient Jesus still sees everyone's need! Rest in that truth regarding the need you might be currently experiencing. He sees. He is still compassionate. He cares!

II. WITH TENDER COMPASSION! (2-3)

III. MAGNIFYING SMALL MEANS (4-7)

In verse 6, we see that the miracle occurred in the hands of the Creator. But Jesus did utilize His disciples as the conveyers of the food to the multitudes!

IV. WITH UNENDING PLEASURES (8-9)

In your lack, he provides; in your desperation, he satisfies; in your want, he supplies! In Christ there are exceeding and unending pleasures & delights!

V. WHILE UNBELIEVERS SCOFF (10-13)

Seeking a sign from heaven — meaning some kind of miraculous display that would prove his claims beyond a doubt.

Why do they do this? To “Test” (or in Greek: “To tempt”) Jesus — Note: the word ‘test’ is the same word “Tempt” in Mark 1.13 that Satan did to Jesus. It seems that Mark is writing and suggesting that the Pharisees were in league with Satan in trying to tempt Jesus (Mark 1.13)

putting this together:

When there’s a great need –

Jesus knows & has compassion–

He takes what you have & uses it–

He Himself satisfies & gladdens–

Unbelievers don’t believe & they scoff !!

*I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me, A sinner, condemned, unclean.*

*How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be;
How marvelous! How wonderful! Is my Savior's love for me!*

Mark 8:1-13 — “The Compassionate Savior Who Satisfies Multitudes: The Feeding of the 4,000!”

9 LESSONS FROM THE FEEDING OF THE 4,000.

- 1)** we see again Jesus’ unrivaled divine power. Because only God can create, only God could have multiplied those seven loaves of bread and a few fish even one-fold, not to mention many thousand-fold. He is the God of Abraham, who believed in Him “who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist” ([Rom. 4:17](#)).

- 2)** the fact that He not only cured diseases and restored hearing and sight but restored those who were kullos (maimed and sometimes completely without arms, legs, eyes, or other parts of the body), He set Himself totally apart from self-proclaimed divine healers of past years and modern times. You look in vain among those healers for verified accounts of anyone who was given an arm, leg, or eye to replace one that was missing.

- 3)** we learn that the goal of ministry is worship. Although most, if not all, of the multitudes in Decapolis were pagan Gentiles, when they saw the magnitude and perfection of Jesus’ healing power, they not only were astonished beyond measure but also “glorified the God of Israel” (v. 31).

- 4)** this story teaches the necessity of relying on divine resources. Like the disciples, we are most usable to the Lord when we acknowledge our own lack of resources and turn to Him. Whatever we may have in ourselves is never enough to meet the needs of others or to accomplish anything for God. J

- 5)** we learn from this story that God’s resources are never diminished, much less exhausted, because He has an infinite capacity to create. He didn’t need the 7 loaves & few fish in order to feed the multitude.

- 6)** we learn about the servant’s usefulness. Although the Lord is able do His work without us, He chooses to do it through us. He did not need the disciples’ help to distribute the food any more than he needed the seven loaves and the fish to make the food. He could have done in an instant what took them several hours to do. But in His infinite wisdom and mercy God chooses to use human instruments to do His divine work of carrying the gospel to the world and of ministering to its needs.

- 7)** we learn that God gives liberally, in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over” ([Luke 6:38](#)), as we have already seen. Everyone on the mountainside ate until he was completely satisfied. There was even more than enough, so that seven large baskets of food were left over.

- 8)** is the lesson of spiritual investment. When the disciples gave all they had to Jesus and then helped Him give it away to others, they had seven full baskets remaining for themselves. “He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully” ([2 Cor. 9:6](#)).

- 9)** the overarching lesson is the limitless compassion of Jesus Christ. He has compassion for all our needs—eternal, lifetime, and daily. He has compassion on Jews and on Gentiles, on the severely afflicted and the merely hungry. Following the example of our Lord, we are to “do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” ([Gal. 6:10](#)). Our compassion is not measured by our feelings but by our giving.

JESUS PAID IT ALL

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

**Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim,
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him
My robe His righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath His side,
I am divinely blest.

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

When from my dying bed
My ransomed soul shall rise,
I'll lay my trophies down
All down at Jesus' feet.

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
"JESUS DIED MY SOUL TO SAVE!"
My lips shall still repeat.