

Mark 8:1-9

A Royal Feast for a Hungry World

Proposition: *Christ satisfies our spiritual hunger, doing for us what we could never do by being the Savior we could never imagine.*

I. The Miracle: Same Teaching, Second Lesson.

a. The Setting.

- i. *A desolate place.*
 1. Mark 6: In the Land of Promise.
 2. Mark 8: In the region of the Decapolis.
- ii. *A pregnant moment.*
 1. Mark 6: “The hour is now late.”
 2. Mark 8: “Now three days.”

b. The Problem.

- i. *The hungry crowd.*
 1. Mark 6: 5,000 households.
 2. Mark 8: 4,000 souls.
- ii. *The powerless disciples.*
 1. Mark 6: Emptyhanded and dismissive.
 2. Mark 8: Emptyhanded and doubting.

c. The Solution.

- i. *A compassionate Christ.*
 1. Mark 6: To the Jews.
 2. Mark 8: To the Gentiles.
- ii. *The bread from heaven.*
 1. Mark 6: Satisfied with twelve basketsful left.
 2. Mark 8: Satisfied with seven basketsful left.

d. The Teaching.

- i. Both feedings reveal *the dullness of the disciples’ faith in Christ.*
- ii. Both feedings reveal *the fullness of the kingdom of God in Christ!*

II. The Crisis: Blind Church and Hungry World.

a. Blindness: The Crisis of the Church.

- i. *Unbelief in Christ.*
 1. Low estimation of his person.
 2. Low estimation of his work.
- ii. *Indifference toward outsiders.*
 1. Unwillingness to help them
 2. Hardened dismissal of them.

b. Hunger: The Crisis of the World

- i. *Unfulfilled souls.*

1. We have nothing and yearn for satisfaction.
 2. We can’t get satisfaction and don’t deserve it.
- ii. *Inevitable starvation.*
 1. Despite apparent vigor, our strength is fleeting.
 2. Unless Christ satisfies us, we will perish.

III. The Feast: Christ the True Israel.

a. Doing for us what we could never do.

- i. *Inaugurating the Kingdom.*
 1. Far exceeding the greatest earthly kingdom.
 - a. Triumphant in weakness.
 - b. Keeping God’s promises.
 2. Encompassing every earthly people.
 - a. Jews.
 - b. Gentiles.

ii. *Satisfying spiritual hunger.*

1. Enough for all the Church.
 - a. Feeding the spiritually hungry.
 - b. Guiding the spiritually blind.
2. Enough for all the Church *forever.*

b. Being for us the Savior we could never imagine.

- i. *Having compassion on us.*
 1. Knowing our great need when we knew it not.
 2. Unwilling to send us away hungry though we would go gladly.
- ii. *Giving up his perfect life for ours.*
 1. In his righteous life.
 2. In his agonizing death.
 3. In his efficacious resurrection.

IV. Concluding Applications

- a. Brothers and sisters, behold the *fullness of the kingdom* in Christ, God’s anointed!
 - i. Having seen his *power*, stop doubting and believe.
 - ii. Having seen his *compassion*, have a care to serve the lost.
- b. For any who don’t believe, behold the *feast of the world* in Christ, God’s anointed!
 - i. Having seen his *power*, know that he is God and Lord of all.
 - ii. Having seen his *compassion*, come to him and be satisfied.