

[Mar 8:1-21 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.

11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. 14 Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. 17 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." 20 "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." 21 And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

I. Intro

- A. Short Term memory issues today are prevalent, but this is not new. The Disciples had it bad.
- B. Their response is as if they had never seen this before.
- C. A similar story told in Mark 6:30-44
 - 1. Same discussion
 - 2. Same conversation
 - 3. Similar crowd size
 - 4. Similar source lunch
 - 5. Different amount of leftovers
 - 6. But the same miracle
- D. Do we often forget just how God has provided? They work He has done? How He has demonstrated His power?
- E. Let this text be a reminder!

II. Text

- A. Verse 1: The crowd had been following Him through the Decapolis, looking for a sign or miracle.
- B. Verses 2-3: The test in a question.
- C. Verse 4: The answer from logic and reason in the flesh:
 - 1. They should have remembered
 - 2. Yet they they only see desperation
- D. Verses 6-7: He blessed the available food, and He commanded the disciples to distribute it to the crowd.
- E. Verse 8: They picked up the leftovers, 7 baskets full, and there were more scraps than what they had in the beginning.
- F. Verse 9: about 4000 people...

1. Matthew records 4000 men besides the women and children
2. A massive group in a desolate place, all eating what was provided miraculously by the Jewish Messiah in a pagan land
- G. Verses 11-13: will refer to this next week
- H. Verses 14-18: Are you dull of hearing, memory, or not paying attention?
- I. Verses 19-21:
 1. Twelve and Seven
 2. Do you not yet understand?
 3. The pointed question Jesus asks is about the number of baskets of leftovers:
 - a) Remember: I told you there was a lesson in the leftovers.
 - b) It could simply be a reminder of the facts of the events.
 - c) It is obviously more than that, and deserves our attention.

III. Point

- A. No longer Crumbs
 1. The woman in last weeks story was satisfied with just the crumbs from the table, This is no longer about crumbs.
 2. The disciples were being exposed to truth for which they were not quite ready.
 3. [Mar 6:52 ESV] 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.
 - a) During the walking on water miracle, directly after the first feeding, Mark records they didn't understand the loaves and their hearts were hardened.
 - b) Jesus is teaching them this lesson again, and the audience is different.
 4. The Work of God is available to All
 - a) Salvation is not limited to the Jews under the law
 - b) Just as Christ's provision, healings, and truth is not limited to the chosen ones of Israel.
 5. What begins with crumbs is found to be enough, what becomes a feast for thousands is found to be more than enough, and when we feast with our savior in heaven, we will find it doesn't run out.
- B. A Confrontation
 1. The disciples, still struggling to understand the previous mass feeding, are now serving another group that is too large for the food available.
 2. They are the ones carrying the baskets of food to the crowd seated on the ground
 3. They are the ones picking up the leftovers
 4. Their common sensibilities are being assaulted by what they are seeing with their own eyes.
 5. Yet their hearts were hardened, and they did not yet understand.
 6. We are so much like the disciples, and yet we look at these stories and conversations in disbelief.
 7. We know the power of God, and the presence of God, yet we still doubt.
 8. He is at work perfectly, we must trust Him in the process.
 9. Application:
 - a) Trust Him with direction in your life, and follow Him.
 - b) Trust Him with your finances, and give your tithes and offerings joyfully to the Lord.
 - c) Trust Him with your heart, and serve the Lord with gladness.
- C. Twelve and Seven
 1. These numbers are not thrown out randomly, as nothing is random or wasted with Christ, every word matters, every number matters.
 2. Twelve is an important number:
 - a) Twelve tribes
 - b) Twelve Disciples/Apostles
 - c) A jewish boy would experience his bar mitzvah at 12 years old

- d) Jesus was 12 when He was teaching in the temple as one with authority...and His parents left Him behind
- e) In the New Jerusalem there will be 12 gates and 12 foundations: These are marked as the twelve tribes and twelve apostles.
- f) Twelve is said to be a number divine authority, perfect order, and completeness.
- 3. Seven is an important number:
 - a) Creation to completion: 6 days and a day of rest: 7
 - b) God established a 7 day week with the sabbath rest capping off the completion of the week.
 - c) 7 days was a ritual cleansing period for those being restored to right standing with in the synagogue
 - d) There were 7 sprinkling times
 - e) In Pharaoh's dream there were 7 good years and 7 lean years
 - f) In the Revelation, there were 7 letters to seven churches.
 - g) Seven represents Spiritual perfection and divine completion
- 4. What are the disciples missing:
 - a) The first feeding was to the Jews, and 12 baskets were left over
 - b) The second feeding was to the gentiles, and 7 baskets were left over.
 - c) I believe, this is showing us that what started with the Jewish people will then be brought to completion with the gentiles coming to faith.
 - d) What started with the 12 tribes, the sons of Abraham, will come to perfect completion when offered to the whole world.
 - e) We are recipients of God's grace and the fullness of His plan all along was to bring His plan to completion.
 - (1) No longer a chosen nation or race, but available to jews and gentiles
 - (2) No longer about obedience to a law and established group, but to those who respond by faith.

IV. Close