



Thanksgiving

Ps. Brett Fuller, November 25, 2012

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Mark 8:1-9 *In those days, when there was again a large crowd and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples and said to them, 2 "I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat. 3 "If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way; and some of them have come from a great distance." 4 And His disciples answered Him, "Where will anyone be able to find enough bread here in this desolate place to satisfy these people?" 5 And He was asking them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven." 6 And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people. 7 They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well. 8 And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces. 9 About four thousand were there; and He sent them away.*

The feeding of the 4000 included Gentile & Jewish people, and occurred about 1½ years into Jesus' ministry. He was sent to the lost of Israel, but He also touched (engaged) the non-Jewish people. He started with the Jews, reached out to the Jews, and trained leaders from the Jews – who would go into all the world and preach.

He was coming from a moment of "vacation" during which He had healed the Syro-Phonician woman. He had worked a miracle even while He had been resting. Now here we have him feeding a crowd of 4000, the numbers had been building over a 3-day period. The "event" wasn't planned; it had spontaneously developed and some had been there all 3 days.

Jesus invited his disciples to feed them...

I. Large Crowd; vss. 1-4

A. Christ Faith To Meet The Need

B. Disciples Unbelief

- Their unbelief was evidenced in spite of having seen the feeding of the 5000; possibly only 2 weeks earlier.
- They had forgotten everything they had see Christ do; they failed to draw on what they ALREADY KNEW!
- When Jesus heard their response of unbelief, He asked them the same question, "What do you have?"
- We live in a community that is need of being fed...does Christ have disciples that can feed the 7 million folks in this area that are weak & fainting?

II. Loaves, Fish & Jesus; vss. 5-7

A. Requests The Disciple's Food

- They had 7 loaves – resources ill equipped to meet the needs.
- We don't have enough; yet God is asking, "What do you have?"
- When He asks for what we have, his asking means He is going to take what He asks us for.
- It's not about how much you have, but what you have and your willingness to give.

B. Gives Thanks For A "Little" & Blesses The Little (whenever we see Jesus "blessing" food, it is so it can be used for supernatural purposes; **Matt 26:26 "communion")**

- He gave thanks WHEN HE HAD LITTLE.
- We are to give thanks always – it is the gateway that allows the blessing of God come back to you.
- As He broke the bread, it INCREASED – all as a result of giving thanks. When we are grateful for what we have, He gives us more that we will have more to distribute.
- The bit we have is for the needs of those we know...this is our rationalization for NOT giving what we have. Yet faith requires us to give, to offer to God what we have in faith that He will multiply.

- Jews prayed AFTER the meal in thanks for what God has blessed & provided. Yet Jesus thanked God BEFORE the meals on 3 occasions – feeding of 5,000; the feeding of 4,000; & before the Eucharist, the Last Supper.
- Gentiles pray for their food before – it is received by faith and prayer consecrates the food. Everything that Jesus did manifested the supernatural provision & goodness of God. We pray for God’s supernatural provision in everything in our lives. All we have comes by God’s grace; what we eat physically & spiritually.

C. Gets The Disciples To Distribute

- He wanted his disciples to be a part of supernatural manifestation; He intended for them to take part that their faith might be enlarged & strengthened.
- He never intended for the world to be confronted by words & understanding; He intends for the world to be encountered by the power of God.
- Distributing the food gave them testimony; sign & wonders, as a result, followed their testimony.

D. All Were Satisfied, 7 Large Baskets Of Food Left Over For The Disciples

- Difference was that there were 12 baskets left over after feeding of 5000; 7 large baskets full at the feeding of the 7000. Likely same amount of food left over after both events – and the disciples collected what’s left over – it was theirs.
- The provision their wives were wondering about (possibly) they brought home – abundant leftovers.
- When we hold on to what we have, when we aren’t grateful and keep what God asks us to give, keeps us from experiencing the abundance of God’s “leftovers” that He intends us to share in.
- We may find ourselves in a deficit in many areas of life, yet BE GRATEFUL for what you have. God will multiply what we give in thanks & receive in thanks and there will be “LEFTOVERS” – baskets full of God’s good provision.