

Mark 8:1-10, Matthew 15:32-39 – Jesus Feeds the 4,000

Introduction: Answering the Critic

1. Many liberal theologians believe Mark made a mistake by including this text in his gospel
 - a. Two versions of the same story (feeding of the 5k)
 - b. The disciples would not be so dense to forget the feeding of the 5k
2. Internal Evidence that this is a separate event from the feeding of the 5k
 - a. Jesus recalls the feeding of the 5k in Mark 8:19
 - b. The disciples do not perceive who Jesus truly is, nor do they understand His power
3. Dissimilarities
 - a. A Jewish versus Gentile crowd
 - b. Five loaves and a couple of fish versus seven loaves and a few fish
 - c. One day with Jesus versus three days with Him
 - d. 12 small baskets left over, versus 7 large baskets left over

Central Logic Human insufficiency and inability in the hands of the Lord becomes adequate, sufficient, and abundant blessing and grace.

The Concentrated Lot (Mark 8:1-2b, Matthew 15:32)

1. The Gospel writers did not record everything Jesus said or did, why then does Mark record this miraculous event? (**John 21:25**)
 - a. Jesus extends the Gospel to His other sheep found in the nations
 - b. Moving into Gentile territory was a public declaration to the religious leaders that Gentiles were unclean
 - c. When John the Baptist doubted who Jesus was and through his
2. News spread & the crowd came to Jesus (**Mark 7:36**); many healed
3. The crowd is enthusiastic to see the Lord and hear His teaching; they were there for three days with no concern for food; no one complains
4. The crowd lived by every word that proceeded from the Lord's mouth; like newborn infants, they longed for the pure spiritual milk

The Compassionate Lord (Mark 8:1c-3, Matthew 15:32)

1. Jesus is concerned for the welfare of the people; He sees their need and fulfills it
2. The Gentile crowd is seeking the Kingdom of God, and the Lord is going to add unto them (**Matthew 6:33**)
3. The Gospels demonstrate a Messiah who has compassion for sinners
 - a. At the feeding of the 5k (**Mark 6:34, Matthew 14:4**)
 - b. He has compassion for the people, white for harvest (**Mat 9:36**)
 - c. He has compassion on Jerusalem (**Luke 13:34, 19:41**)
 - d. He has compassion at Lazarus' death (**John 11:35-36**)
 - e. Here, Jesus says He has compassion on the crowd; He cares, loves
4. Jesus reveals the inner recesses of the heart of God; He is not stoic
5. Christlikeness is a compassionate, loving, generous heart for others (**Colossians 3:12-15**); this kind of heart is only wrought by the Spirit
6. Jesus demonstrates love for Gentiles – love for humanity

7. Jesus provides the greatest need every soul has – salvation through His substitutionary atonement; for any who will come to Him by faith

The Compliant or Clueless Learners (Mark 8:4, Matthew 15:33)

1. The disciples were clueless to a point, but not completely
2. My Opinion: I do not think the disciples forgot about the feeding of the five thousand for the skepticism and sarcasm is gone (**see Mark 6:37b**)
 - a. I think the disciples are acknowledging their weakness and human inability to sufficiently feed the crowd
 - b. When we think we are sufficient to carry on life, ministry, and especially our redemption, we give ourselves too much credit
3. Unless the Lord builds the house, the labor is in vain!

The Copious Life (Mark 8:5-8, Matthew 15:34-37)

1. Jesus asks about the storehouse of food – He takes inventory
 - a. The disciples are limited and lacking
 - b. He points out their complete inability; they can do nothing (**Jn 15:5**)
 - c. Self-sufficiency is faithlessness ending in failure
 - d. Relying on your own strength will lead to burnout and despair
 - e. Turn to Christ to meet God-sized needs; He is sufficient, enough
2. Jesus' care goes beyond sufficiency into abundance
 - a. He prays over the little He has; we would be wringing our hands
 - b. Everything (big or small) is little to God
 - c. Jesus has the disciples serve; Jesus involves them in the work of the ministry (inadequate, weak sinners)
 - d. Jesus accomplishes His work through means – through the body of Christ (His hands, feet, arms, mouth, etc)
 - e. *God works by our hands, yet His own hand does it all!*
3. The Crowd is the passive recipient of the Lord's gracious generosity; they did nothing by receive the good gifts from the Lord – He added!
4. In the hands of the disciples, or the crowd, the loaves nothing is produced, but in the hands of God, it multiplies; What loaves in your life do you need to place in the hands of your Lord and Savior?
5. We do not need to worry about what we will eat, wear, etc. for Jesus is sufficient to meet all of our needs if we will seek Him
6. Jesus abundantly gives, over and above sufficiency – 7 large baskets are left over from feeding the crowd – they are satisfied and there are leftovers
7. Jesus does not give out crumbs from the Master's table, but a satisfactory and complete meal
8. The compassion of Jesus displays the Grace of God who gives beyond measure – He gave His Son to die for your sins and save your soul from God's wrath!

The Christ Left (Mark 9-10, Matthew 15:38-39)

1. How many in the Gentile region missed out and did not seek the Kingdom of God, or avail themselves to hear Jesus? They did not come
2. Jesus sent the crowd home and He left – Do Not Put The Lord Off!
3. Today is the Day of Salvation! May His kindness lead you to repent