

The Compassionate Christ

Mark 8:1-10

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1. A Large Hungry Crowd

"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..." Mark 8:1

Parallel Events in Mark		
Feeding of a great multitude	Ch. 6:30-44	Ch. 8:1-9
A boat trip	Ch. 6:45-56	Ch. 8:10
Confrontation with the Pharisees	Ch. 7:1-23	Ch. 8:11-13
A conversation about bread	Ch. 7:24-30	Ch. 8:14-21
A miraculous healing	Ch. 7: 31-36	Ch. 8:22-26
A significant confession	Ch. 7:37	Ch. 8:27-29

**from Christ-Centered Expository Commentary*

Considerations:

People are hungry, both physically and spiritually. Take the time to feed them and teach them.

2. The Compassionate Christ

"I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. 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." Mark 8:2-3

"The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."

Exodus 34:5-7a

God's Compassion in the Old Testament

Numbers 14:18

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalm 86:15

Psalm 103:8

Psalm 145:8

Jonah 4:2

Joel 2:13

Considerations:

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He will supply all your needs.

3. A Few Weak Disciples

"And his disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" And he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." 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. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha." Mark 8:4-10

Considerations:

God has a good plan where you only see problems.

You are a means of God's grace being extended to those in need.

Community Group Questions:

1. What is your perception of God when you are stuck in your sin? How does this need to change in light of God's compassionate heart?
2. How do you respond in trials when there isn't enough bread? How can you lean into Jesus and see His good plan at work? Perhaps memorize a passage of Scripture to combat the worry and fear and pragmatism.
3. What is an area in your life that God seems to be repeating over and over with you, that perhaps you don't have ears to hear or eyes to see?
4. God's sovereignty has means. He works through His people. Identify one or two people in your spheres of influence that you can show the compassion of Christ to. Write their names down. In the coming days and weeks, how can you meet both a physical need of theirs and also share the good news of Jesus with them, the true bread from heaven?