

Jesus Came for Everybody

Another Bread Miracle

Bread in the Gospel of Mark

Jesus Feeds the 5000 – Mark 6:30-44

Syrophoenician Woman – Mark 7:24-29

Jesus Feeds the 4000 – Mark 8:1-20

Comparing the 5000 and the 4000

Differences – 5000 men vs. 4000 people. Jesus had compassion vs. Jesus *saying* he had compassion on the crowd. Jewish territory vs. Gentile territory.

Understanding the bread

Mark 8:19-20 “When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, **how many** baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” Answer: **Twelve**. “And the seven for the four thousand, **how many** baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” Answer: **Seven**. (Emphasis added)

Twelve is the number of Israel. But what about seven?

Idea 1 – Pastor Skip Heitzig: “Gergashites, Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Jebusites, Hivvites, the [Perizzites]. Seven nations that occupied that land. How many baskets were there? There seems to be a correspondent truth.” These are the nations that, according to Deuteronomy, need to be thrown out of the land.

Idea 2 – Seven is the number of completion and perfection.

- The Lord’s words are flawless, refined 7 times (Psalm 12:6)
- Naaman the leper told to bathe in the Jordan seven times
- Seven I am statements in the book of John
- Seven petitions in the Lord’s prayer
- In Revelation, seven seals, trumpets, bowls, angels

Either way, seven is a number that speaks to fullness and inclusion of the Gentiles.

There are spiritual realities behind the physical miracles.

The True Bread

A Gospel of Mark mystery

Why are verses 11-15 here? How do they fit?

Vss. 1-10 → Miracle of bread, feeding the 4000

Vss. 11-13 → Pharisees ask for a sign

Vss. 14-15 → Beware of leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

Vss. 16-21 → They don't understand the bread

The last time we saw Pharisees and Herod together was Mark 3:6: “The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.”

Matthew 12:39 “But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.’”

The Bread from Heaven

Not understanding the bread

Vss. 16-21 “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...? Do you not yet understand?”

Questions for Personal Study

1. What are the differences between the feeding of the 5000 and the 4000?
2. Why is Gentile inclusion significant to the story of God? Do you take it for granted?
3. How does this passage foreshadow Jesus' death?
4. What are you going to do to make Christmas one about truly understanding Jesus?