



“Come Hungry, Leave Full”

Matthew 15:29–39

The Authority of the King

Introduction

Jesus healed the sick and handicapped (vv.29–31)

“Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there.³⁰And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. ³¹So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.”

The difference between the two ‘feedings’ in Matthew’s gospel

Feeding 5,000
(*Matthew 14:15–21*)
Primarily Jews
Galilee, near Bethsaida
5 loaves, 2 fish
12 baskets leftover
Crowd with Him one day
Tried to make Him king

Feeding 4,000
(*Matthew 15:32–39*)
Primarily Gentiles
The Decapolis
7 loaves, “a few fish”
7 baskets left over
Crowd with Him three days
No popular response

Matthew 16:9–10 – “Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up? ¹⁰Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up?”

Matthew 15:32 – “And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, ‘I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.’”

So, we’re going to look at four ways Jesus shows compassion...

- 1) Jesus shows compassion by understanding our needs.
- 2) Jesus shows compassion by accomplishing the impossible.
- 3) Jesus shows compassion by using us to meet the needs of others.
- 4) Jesus shows compassion by meeting the needs of those who come to Him.

So, the first one is...

1. Jesus shows compassion by understanding our needs (v.32)

Jesus says “I feel compassion.” (v.32)

Lamentations 3:22–23 – “The LORD’S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

Matthew 9:36 – “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.”

Matthew 15:32b – “[the crowds] have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.”

2. Jesus shows compassion by accomplishing the impossible (v.33)

“The disciples said to Him, ‘Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?’” (v.33)

Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

3. Jesus shows compassion by using us to meet the needs of others (v.34–37)

“And Jesus said to them, ‘How many loaves do you have?’ And they said, ‘Seven, and a few small fish.’” (v.37)

“And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.” (vv.35–36)

“And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full.” (v.37)

4. Jesus shows compassion by meeting the needs of those who come to Him (v.38–39)

“And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.” (v.38)

Isaiah 61:1–3 – “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; ²To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,³To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness. The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

“And sending away the crowds, Jesus got into the boat and came to the region of Magadan.” (v.39)

A few take-aways...

- 1) When you come to Jesus, you eat something for nothing.
- 2) When you come to Jesus, you not only get to eat but you’re also required to serve.
- 3) When you come to Jesus, you eat and worship.
- 4) When you come to Jesus, you receive heavenly, divine, and supernatural resources.
- 5) When you come to Jesus, His resources are never diminished or exhausted.
- 6) When you come to Jesus, you always get more than what you put in.

Galatians 6:10 – “So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is this story similar to the feeding of the five thousand? How is it different?
2. When you hear that Jesus understands our needs, how does that make you feel?
3. Have you ever seen Jesus meet a need in your life in a miraculous way?
4. Jesus wants to use you to meet the needs of others. How has Jesus used you in the past?
5. How has Jesus used others to comfort you when you have been hurting?