

ONE MISSION

ONE ANSWER!

NEXT GEN: CAME TOGETHER WITH OVER \$85,000 IN ONE NIGHT!

-EPIC CELEBRATION! 500 youth/kids/leaders

(Paul speaking to the NT Church)

Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

NEXT GEN LEADS US IN GENEROSITY!

MY OBSERVATION:

SELFISHNESS DIVIDES MISSION UNIFIES!

MY preferences.....MY comfort.....

MY desires.....MY best interest

Verses

YOUR preferences...YOUR comfort....

YOUR desires...YOUR best interest

(KEEP Eyes outside of these walls)

UNITY IN MISSION!

Psalm 133:1-3 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! ² It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. ³ It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. **For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.**

WE ARE NOT ALL THE SAME IN THIS ROOM!

Vikings.....Packers

Ford.....Chevy

Cats..... Dogs

Lebron James.....Michael Jordan

Xbox.....PlayStation

IPhone.....Android

Fox.....CNN

CULTURE Fueled of division

-Preference and perspective divides

-Opinions and view points divide

HUMAN NATURE DIVIDES! Since the beginning of time.

DIVIDE INTO: “US” and “THEM”

*we ALL naturally do this....it is in our human nature.

WE FAVOR.....GIVE BENEFIT OF DOUBT TO “US”

-WE PRE-JUDGE.....DISTRUST “THEM”

2000 Years ago: Us and them. Jews and Gentiles.

Mark Chapters 4-8

Mark 4:35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”

Actual title....geographical barrier divided by Jordan river

-2500 years of division and tension

-Jews referred to the people as “The Other Side”

In Jesus time: Rabbinic tradition.....other side was the “Decapolis” 10 cities
(that area was originally the 7 nations of Cannan)

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE JORDAN AND SEA OF GALILEE

HISTORY: Genesis Patriarch (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob)

-Isaac was the 12 tribes of Israel

-Ishmael was 7 nations of Cannan

Joshua took over after Moses to cross the Jordan and conquer Cannan.

Joshua 3:9-10 Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. ¹⁰This is how you will know that the living

God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

(These are the 7 nations that Israel had to push out)

SO.....TO SAY BAD BLOOD WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT!

Polar opposites.....tension!

TO THIS DAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST!

(Most neighbors across the Jordan still want to destroy Israel)

RELIGIOUSLY: Pagan worship and false Gods

Ancient Israel -Torah prohibited Pork “Unclean”

The Other side: Pigs were sacred and worshipped

Jews considered it as the place satan lived and demons inhabited.

Decapolis was controlled by Rome who had 6000 soldiers there.

-The 10th Roman Legion, which was stationed in the area, notably used a pig (or boar) as its **Roman Legionary Symbol (mascot)**

POLAR OPPOSITES FOR GENERATIONS!

No Jew.....especially a Rabbi would ever consider going to “The Other Side”

The original land of the 7 enemies! Now under Roman control.

SO NOW.....CATCH THIS:

Jesus grew up and did ministry in Galilee. Everywhere he went he drew a crowd.

Mark 5 Jesus goes to the other side and no one is there to meet him, but a demon possessed man

Mark 5:1-2 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him.

-No crowd on “THE OTHER SIDE”

.....just a demon possessed man!

Mark 5:11-13 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.”¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Jesus cast out the demons into pigs.....2000 pigs jump into the water and die

-REMEMBER.....PIGS ARE SACRED! BIG \$\$\$\$\$\$

Mark 5:16-17 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

SO.....NOT A WARM WELCOME! GET OUT!

The demon possessed man wanted to come with Jesus and he told him to stay and go tell everyone what had happened.

-Then Jesus went back to “HIS SIDE” to Galilee

Mark 6: Feeding of the 5000.

Mark 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. ³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, **“Five—and two fish.”**

³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

-5 Loaves (5 books of Torah) and 2 Fishes.....12 baskets left

ISRAEL.....SYMBOL TO THE JEWS

I am the God of more than enough for you and all of your tribes!

Mark 7:24-29 Jesus goes to Tyre & Sidon... then verse 31 went to Decapolis

Mark 8 feeding of the 4000 (Not the same story.....not the same place)

Mark 8:1-2 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said,² “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.

-Jesus had compassion on THE OTHER SIDE!

Mark 8:5-9 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. ⁶He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. ⁷They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. ⁸The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ⁹About four thousand were present.

Seven loaves for the seven nations.....few fish and SEVEN left over!

THE SYMBOL.....THE MESSAGE:

I am the God of more than enough for EVERYONE!!

(Jews and Gentiles)

TAKE AWAYS: Jesus has compassion on EVERYONE!

-He includes us in the miracle.....

THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

JESUS WAS THE ANSWER AND STILL IS!

ONE MISSION...ONE HOPE

HE IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

JESUS CAME TO BREAK THROUGH THE BARRIER OF “US” & “THEM”

Mathew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

TAKE AWAYS: Jesus has compassion on EVERYONE!

He includes us in the miracle.....

THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

1) PRAY FOR “THEM” (Those that need Jesus)

-Both groups.....Jesus had compassion on them!

-Compassion leads us to response.

2) HE INCLUDES “US” IN THE MIRACLE! “GO....make disciples”

3) THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 11 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.