

The Feeding of the 4000 (Mark 8:1-10)

- Jesus continues to minister in the Gentile region where a crowd of 4000 gather
- Matthew gives an almost word for word similar account as seen here (15:23-29)
- The Master feeding the multitudes coincides with the training of his disciples
- Even during this period of time the Master was never out of reach for the needy
- In this instance the crowd had been with the Master for three days (8:2)
- Once again the Master reveals His willingness to meet the needy & desperate

I. The Master's Compassion on the Multitude (8: 1-3)

- No travelling is mentioned between 7:3-37 & 8:1-10 though it may have been
- “again a great crowd” referring to previous occasions when the crowds gathered
- “they had nothing to eat” food was not their concern; only about Jesus was
- Jesus addresses the disciples, as this was a period of intensive training for them
- Jesus tells his disciples that He was “moved with compassion” for the people
- Evidently this was not so with them, so Jesus presses upon them the problem
- Jesus knew what to do but he awoke them to their responsibility in the matter

II. The Unbelief of the Disciples (8:4)

- The region to the east or southeast of Galilee was a desolate place, a wilderness
- Apart from Jesus' power to work miracles the present terrain was worthless
- Once again before the disciples looked to Jesus they saw their own inability
- Their plight from a human point of view was desperate for the place was barren
- In the same way, from a spiritual perspective the masses are barren & hopeless
- As Christians we have the bread of life, will we not distribute it to them?
- Christ also saw the awful peril to them if they left unfed, He saw their future
- We too spiritually know the future of their souls, it should fill us with concern

III. The Master Supplies and the Disciples Serve (8:5-10)

- Jesus doesn't rebuke them for their unbelief, but He supplies the need (vs.5)
- He wants them to remember the amount they compared to His supply 7 for 4000
- Once again Christ demonstrates his power to repeat His miracles when needed
- Jesus reaffirms their commission, they receive from Him & give to the hungry
- We are to serve the needy, to be Christ's instruments to the poor & helpless
- More importantly we must serve them spiritually, feeding them God's Word