

Compassion for Outsiders
Mark 8:1-9
Series: Christ Our Focus

1. Introduction –
 - a. For the past few weeks we have seen Jesus ministering to the Gentiles.
 - b. Unlike the Jews that saw the Gentiles as the enemies of God, Jesus demonstrates that at his first advent, God was opening the doors to all people.
 - c. The current story of the feeding of the 4000 has many similarities with the story we read when Jesus fed the 5000.
 - i. Some scholars, because of the similarities, have asserted that this is the same story just repeated.
 - ii. However, there are key differences in the story that do not support the doublet view.
 1. The number of items multiplied are different.
 2. The place the miracles happen are different.
 3. The crowds being blessed by Jesus are different.
 4. The crowd's motivation is different.
2. Verse 1-3 – The Disciple's Challenge
 - a. Verse 1 –
 - i. "In those days,"
 - ii. Christ is still in the gentile territory so that he is duplicating the miracle for the gentiles.
 - iii. Because of this, we see that Christ is treating the gentiles in the same manner to which he is treating the Jewish nation.
 - b. Verse 1 –
 - i. A great crowd gathered
 - ii. Christ calls the disciples this time and presents them with the problem –
 1. When in Jewish land, the Disciples had foreseen the problem and brought it to Jesus attention but when in the Gentile land, they are oblivious.
 2. Although it escapes the attention of the disciples, it does not escape the attention of Jesus.
 - c. Verse 2 –
 - i. I have compassion on the crowd

1. The Greek word for compassion—*splangnizomai*—derives from a word that means entrails or vital organs.
 - a. The meaning here being moved deeply within, in the seat of emotions.
 - b. Jesus has a gut-wrenching emotion on behalf of the crowd.
 - i. **Colossians 3:12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
 - c. This emotion is for a people that no Jew would have emotions for.
 - d. Christ loves the unloved.
- ii. They have been with me for three days and nothing to eat
 1. the word for “been with Christ” in the Greek is a rare and intensified form of the word for remain – GK—*prosmenein*—a special adherence and commitment.
 2. They have intentionally remained for three days—even to the shortfall of their supply
 3. Whatever they are receiving is more valuable than anything they are losing.
 - a. **Philippians 3:8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
 - b. **Hymn** –

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
 I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
 I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
 I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand

Than to be the king of a vast domain
 Or be held in sin's dread sway;
 I'd rather have Jesus than anything
 This world affords today.

4. The reception among Gentiles is greater than that of the Jews
 - d. Verses 4 – Christ is concerned with the whole person.
3. Verse 4 – the doubt of the disciples
 - a. This is the evidence that many offer for the story being a doublet.
 - i. They argue that there was no way the disciples would make the same mistake.
 - b. However, this argument actually cuts the other way.
 - i. It demonstrated that the disciples had no expectation that the blessings of Israel would be poured out on Gentiles.
4. Verses 5-7
 - a. Similarities in the miracle.
 - b. The disciple are called upon to help the lord in His ministry.
 - i. **Mark 16:20** And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.
5. Verses 8-9
 - a. Verse 8 –
 - i. Those that come to Christ always leave satisfied.
 - ii. The disciples asked in verse – 4 how can one feed these people – in other words, who can satisfy these people
 1. The answer is Jesus
 - b. Verse 9 –
 - i. Four Thousand people – considerably less
6. Benediction –
 - a. **Psalms 16:9-11** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. (10) For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (11) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.