

## 15:29-31<sup>1</sup>

**30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them.** This is the 5th time in Matthew He does this indiscriminately (4:23; 9:35; 12:15; 14:34) **31 So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified** Is this some “glory cloud” around the heads of saints? Is this some sort of intangible...thing? It rather means they put the stage lights on Him...”all the lights are on Him.” He is in His right place...being noticed. **the God of Israel.** In Matthew 9 we find people glorifying the Lord, but this is unique because they are seen as those who are worshiping somebody else's **God**—the **God of Israel.** These are Gentiles doing this. It makes sense that the Israelites (chapter 9) would do it. Matthew 5:16 told us this was the point of the potentially Messianic Israel (those who believed Jesus was Who He said He was): to make the whole world (all Gentiles) glorify the Lord **God of Israel.** This has always been the goal of Jesus: to get people to notice His Father. Jehovah is not a tribal deity. He is the **God** of the nations.

Now we know who the recipient of this coming miracles really is. Now, instead of 5000 Jews getting fed, we are finding 4000 Gentiles eating.<sup>2</sup>

## 15:32

**Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion** Three times Matthew tells us Jesus has this kind of feelings towards people.

**on the multitude,** by the way, He didn't browbeat these poor planners like I might have done. In other words, He doesn't seize the opportunity to tell them why they're in the mess they're in. **because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”** Jesus knew there would be a food shortage. He's not an idiot. Furthermore, we find out that He allowed them through mountain paths for **three days** and backtracking, at this point, would not have helped. They would actually **faint** or die of exhaustion if they attempt to do so. Jesus, therefore, led people to the point where they had nothing. “All I have His Christ”...sounds so easy...until it's true. He could have produced more food on day one or two, but they must first consume their own meals. Jesus waited so they would have no food. At this point, there is no way anybody can steal God's glory. Jesus has achieved His maximum potential...giving God a chance to receive even more “glory”.

We don't need God to do much of anything anymore. We need to be in a political climate where God must show off because the POTUS and the SCOTUS hates God. Polls tell us we're losing ground. Good! It's day three! Hang on! It's day three. \_\_\_\_\_ Good! It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> day! We find out we're running out of faith in a godless society and we realize it's not about America after all. It's day three.

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<sup>1</sup>These notes are primarily from a midweek service on July 1, 2015:

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=71151936129> [accessed 9/4/17].

<sup>2</sup>My old boss, Pastor Sean Harris, did a great job in his series on Mark in giving some similarities and differences between the two feedings at about 11 minutes into this recording:

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=129121227410> [accessed 9/4/17].

We are struggling in our spheres of education and struggling to make sense of why we spin our wheels in a Christless system and we're running out of things we can actually agree on...we're running out! Good! It's almost day three.

We are running out of time and energy to relationship building and personal wealth and lifestyle building and you may be in here today saying "I'm spent!".....good. Your out of your own resources.

Some of you...you don't know where you're going to get your next groceries or utility bill or field trip fee...

"I have followed Jesus for what seems to be days and days....." Good...our first two days of resources need to pass. American Christianity has been incredibly resourced, and sometimes we think God is worthy of us so long as we can have our tax deduction and our political party...and really what we need is a few...less...resources. God will not do His work while we're stealing His glory.

### **15:33**

**Then His disciples said to Him, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?"** Where will they get the resources to feed 4000? I would almost think Matthew was making this up to teach us a lesson, but in 16:7-11 Jesus references both these miracles (the 4000 and the 5000). Somehow...it seems as though God blinded them.

Have you ever experienced temporary blindness to God's glory? In the hindsight, it seems as though we can say "I was simply not supposed to get it!"

### **15:34**

**Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?"** Jesus answers a question with a question...again. **And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish."**

### **15:35-38**

**37 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets** in the first miracle it was "coffins" but in this one, we are dealing with much larger baskets and so called **large baskets**.

**full of the fragments that were left. 38 Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.** Some have said Matthew is trying to get the reader to identify with both Moses (who fed with both quail and manna) or Elisha (the woman with the son for one last meal, 2 Kings 4 and the school of prophets). This could have been Matthew's way of saying "You've never met a prophet like Jesus." In both cases or both feedings, we have well resourced disciples around those who planned poorly and asked stupid questions. **39 And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.**

## Chapter 16

### 16:1-4

**Then the Pharisees and Sadducees** they are annoying and ask leading and loaded questions while the disciples **came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.** Didn't we already do this in chapter 12? Both times it comes after He heals many people. Oddly enough, I am not sure why these clowns are asking for a sign a second time any more than I know why these disciples are asking about where they are going to get bread. **2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.'** Hypocrites! **You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**" It seems that 16:21 gives us another connection with **Jonah**. Jesus has compassion on Gentiles and that drives Him to preach to them whereas **Jonah** wanted them all to fry.

**And He left them and departed.**

### 16:5-6

**Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.** How did they do this? There were seven baskets full when they left the other side! I don't get it!

**6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."**

### 16:7-12

**And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."** **8 But Jesus, being aware of it, He's reading minds again.** How disgusting to those wishing to conceal their thoughts. **said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took**

Event/Fact	Moses	Jesus
Mass Death of Children preceding arrival	Exodus 1	Matthew 2
A trip to Egypt	Exodus 3	Matthew 2
An Exodus from Egypt	Exodus 12-14	Matthew 2
Preceded by a prophet	Exodus 3	Matthew 3
Major Opposing Figure	Exodus 4	Matthew 2
A baptism	1 Corinthians 10:1-2	Matthew 3
Miracle Worker	Exodus 3	Matthew 4
A mountain for law	Exodus 19	Matthew 5-7
12 "heads of tribes"	Numbers 13:3-14	Matt 10:2-4
Two Feedings of God's people	Exodus (manna); Numbers (quail)	Matthew 14; Matthew 15
They each had a church.	Acts 7:38	Matt 16:18

**up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**

It really seems like Psalm 78 gives us the reason for this reaction of Jesus. Jesus is the new Moses, we have seen while the disciples are the New Israel. They are, then, in the wilderness around their Moses. Psalm 78:16 begins the rundown of a faithless Israel asking whether "God can" make a table in the wilderness. These disciples are finding themselves in Psalm 78:36 where they flatter and lie—leading others to believe they are the ones with faith while they are really questioning the ability of this God Who has visited them (Psalm 78:41-56).

Matthew 13:9, Matthew 13:34-39, Matthew 15:3-6, Matthew 15:7, Matthew 15:32 also reference Psalm 78. It becomes quite obvious with 15:33 and the reference of "bread in the

wilderness” and 16:1 that the disciples are nothing but “doubting children of Israel, 2.0”. All the signs God has done in their midst and ask ridiculous questions like “what are we going to eat now?!”...just like the children of Israel.

Now we know why Jesus responds with “How dumb can you be?” (16:11) Our questions...are somewhat the same...after all God has done in our midst:

1. Can God give calm after a troubling divorce?
2. Can God give grace to the believer in a crumbling America?
3. Can God finish repayment to those who have been wicked to me?
4. Can God furnish me with purpose in the workplace
5. Forgiveness through me to those who don't love me, misuse me
6. Grace with racists towards me (white, black, and Hispanic)
7. Strength in responsibilities in my family

Don't mistake those so-called pious musings for what they really are...mocking, doubt-filled, anxious questions to a God Who has lived up to His Word and His character time and time and time again.

So the question is wrong: “Can God?” is absurd. He can furnish a table with fiscal responsibility and common sense and mercy for tomorrow...

Don't get stirred up emotionally on social media as God is not flattered by our question of “Can God?” God will when He feels like it.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day is coming and He is waiting for our food to be gone. Then God will be glorified.