"Do Ye Not Remember?"

Mark 8:1-21 (text: vs. 17-18)

The Bible records how Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes on two separate occasions (Mt. 14:15-20; 15:32-38; Mk. 6:35-44; 8:1-9).

These two miracles occurred within the span of a few weeks or couple of months, at the most.¹

It is amazing how soon the disciples forgot about the feeding of the 5,000. Just a few hours after miraculously feeding the 5,000, the disciples are in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus comes walking on the water and calms the storm. Then we read,

For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened" (Mk. 6:51-52).

Again, within a matter of weeks after feeding the 5,000 Jesus is faced with another hungry multitude. And what did the disciples say? They could have said, "Hey Jesus, here is another opportunity for You to feed another multitude. And this time there are only 4,000, so it should not be a problem for You, since we've already seen You feed 5,000!" But instead, they say,

(Mk. 8:4). Amazing? But, aren't we also guilty of forgetting how God has worked in our lives?

Despite the disciples hardness of heart, Jesus miraculously feeds these 4,000 people (Mk. 8:6-9).

Jesus and the disciples then depart to the west side of the Sea of Galilee where He is tempted by the Pharisees seeking another sign (vs. 10-11). Jesus had already given many signs, and would not be tempted by their unbelief. He departs again in a ship (vs. 12-13).

In the boat Jesus warned His disciples about

(vs. 14-15). True to form, the disciples miss the whole point. While Lesus is warning about the leaven of an evil heart of unbelief, His disciples are only thinking about not having any physical bread (v. 16).

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Jesus makes a direct correlation between a hardened heart and a failure to remember (vs. 17-18). Within the short span of a few weeks, the disciples failed to learn the spiritual lessons of the two miraculous feedings of the 5,000 and 4,000.

They saw God's works with their eyes... They heard God's Word with their ears, but they missed it (v. 18). Their minds were so cluttered with the concern for physical food, they missed the spiritual. This should be a warning to all of us—Don't miss the spiritual lessons God is trying to teach you because you are too focused on the material things of this life.

Lesus uses the baskets of these miracles as a "teaching moment" to remind His disciples of some vital truths, we should remember also.

I. The PROVISION of the baskets.

- Jesus is not only sufficient—He is always MORE THAN ENOUGH (vs. 19-20 cf. Eph. 3:20).
- The lesson in providing more than enough is—In every thing does for us, there is always something we should take away. He wants us to learn something from what He does for us.
 - A. He is more than enough to SAVE anyone (Heb. 7:25).
 - B. He is more than enough to SUPPLY all your needs.
 - Christ's disciples are concerned about what they did not have (bread—v. 16), while forgetting the Supplier of bread was in the boat with them!
 - 2. Christians often do the same thing—While we are saved from hell by the power of God, we often doubt God to supply for us or help us in our daily lives. If He can provide salvation for you, He can certainly provide for your daily needs.
 - ..."—When you forget about the baskets of God's blessings in your life, you are just like these disciples. Your heart is becoming
 - C. He is more than enough to SUSTAIN you in your trials.
 - all the blessings God did for you in 2015?

II. The PEOPLE of the baskets.

- Why does Jesus call the number of baskets to the disciples attention (vs. 19-20)? These baskets teach us something about Jesus and His relationship to the world.
- A. The feeding of the 5,000 took place on the west side of Galilee near Bethsaida populated by Jews. This multitude were primarily Jews.
 - ▶Notice there were 12 baskets—The number of Israel.
 - 1. 12 tribes One basket for each tribe.
 - 2. 12 apostles who would judge the 12 tribes of Israel (Mt. 10:1-10; 19:28).
 - 3. 12 stones on the breastplate of the priest (Ex. 28:21).
 - 4. 12 pieces of shewbread in the tabernacle.
 - 5. Elijah built an altar of

(1 Kings 18:31).

- 6. 12 gates of the New Jerusalem with the names of the twelve tribes (Rev. 21:12).
- Shows Jesus to be the Messiah of Israel.
- B. The feeding of the 4,000 took place on the southeast side of Galilee near Decapolis (Mk. 7:31). Occupied primarily by Gentiles. Where did they come from?
 - 1. 1200 years earlier these Gentile nations driven out of the Promised Land by Joshua because of their abominable acts. They were the wicked enemies of God and Israel. Joshua lists the names of these pagan nations (Josh. 3:10). There were SEVEN of them.
 - ▶ Lesus has compassion (v. 2) and provides for these seven heathen nations. And there is one basket left over for each of these wicked nations!
 - A picture you and I who were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel (Eph. 2:12) and the enemies of God (Rom. 5:10).

- 2. SEVEN is God's number of fulness / completeness.
- SEVEN continents of the world.
 - ➡Why would God record the number of these baskets? These seven baskets are not just an accident or without significance. These seven baskets are seven sermons to seven gentile nations, that Jesus is not only the Messiah of Israel, but also the Savior of the world—People who are wicked, abominable, and the enemies of God.

III. The PORTION in the baskets.

- The feeding of the 5,000 often gets more attention than the feeding of the 4,000. Some think the feeding of the 5,000 is more significant since their were 12 baskets of fragments and only 7 baskets in the feeding of the 4,000.
- A. The Greek word for basket in feeding the 5,000 is "kophinos" = a small wicker hand-held basket, like a woman would use at the market place.
- B. In his commentary on Matthew, Dr. Peter Ruckman says the Greek word for baskets in feeding the 4,000 is "spuridas" (spoo-rece) meaning a large basket like a laundry hamper. The only other place this Greek word is used is in Acts 9:25, when Paul is let down the wall in a "basket."
- "spuridas"
- 1. The baskets of fragments from the feeding of the 4,000 were big enough to hold a man in.
- 2. Dear friend, it doesn't matter how big of a sinner you think you are—God's basket of grace is big enough to provide salvation for you. His basket of grace is big enough to hold you!

SUMMATION:

Have you forgotten the baskets

of God's blessings in your life?

- Do you remember how Jesus saved you and what He saved you from?
- Do you remember the baskets God's provision for your needs?
- Do you remember the baskets of answered prayers?