

Tuesday, March 24 ~ THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST – AGAIN ~
Mark 8:1-10

In this Scripture, we see Jesus once again feeding a very large crowd of people who are tired, hungry, and a long way from home. After feeding 5,000 people some time before, Jesus now uses seven loaves of bread and a few small fish to feed 4,000. An impossible situation for a mere man, but an act of love and compassion from Jesus. As with the case of most of Jesus' miracles, this story is filled with much symbolism and has a deeper meaning other than satisfying a man's hunger with one meal. There is the symbolism of the THREE DAYS that the people were with Jesus before He fed them. The BASKETS used to gather the leftovers at this meal translate totally differently from the BASKETS used when the five thousand were fed. There isn't enough space here to even start on all of the deeper parts of this story. So, in a few words let's look at the basic level.

First, Jesus has great compassion and concern for all people. Second, when Jesus says do something, you can do it. Finally, God has no limits, nothing is too big or too small for you if God tells you to do it. God has no shortage of resources for His Kingdom. Jesus has the same concern for us today as He did for the 4,000. He wants us fed with the Word and filled with the Spirit. He wants us to be His hands and feet to feed and demonstrate His love and compassion to all people.

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Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

8 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. ³If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

⁴His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

⁵“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. After he had sent them away, ¹⁰he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.