

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 18: Mark 8:1-21

Jesus feeds 4000 in the Decapolis (vv. 1-10)

Matt. 15:32-39

- This section (through v.30) closely parallels 6:31-7:37
- Many critical scholars think there is only one feeding, not two
- It has been noted that Jesus' compassion results in teaching in Chapter 6 but feeding the people in chapter 8
- The baskets of chapter 8 are mentioned in Acts 9:25

What details lead you to a conclusion of one feeding or two?

Why would Mark record two feedings?

The Pharisees demand a sign (vv. 11-13)

Matt. 16:1-4

- The Pharisees want more proof of Jesus' authority
- This is not a legitimate request; it comes from unbelief ("to test Him")
- It's interesting that Mark has Jesus sigh deeply...exasperation?
- Matthew includes the Sadducees and a longer conversation
 - He also ties Jesus to Jonah (note Matt. 12:38-42 and Luke 11:29-32)

Why would Jesus not give the Jewish leaders the sign they ask for?

A misunderstanding about yeast (vv. 14-21)

Matt. 16:5-12

- It seems Jesus and His disciples leave abruptly
- Some have connected the "one loaf" to Jesus Himself
- Leaven is generally a picture of evil influence in Scripture

What would the leaven of the Pharisees be? Herod?

- The disciples miss Jesus' point and continue to fixate on the lack of bread
- In turn, Jesus challenges them for their lack of understanding
- He recounts both the feeding of the 5000 and the recent feeding of the 4000

What is Jesus' point in reminding them of these miracles?