

# LOAVES, FISHES & LOST SOULS

**TEXT:** Mk. 8:1-9 (Please read this passage before proceeding)

**THESIS:** To apply the principles of the feeding of the 4000 to the need to reach the lost around the world.

**INTRO.:** A. This is Jesus' second miracle of feeding thousands with a meager supply of fish and bread. He knew that skeptics would deny His miracles so He performed this fantastic feat on two separate occasions. He had thousands of witnesses because He wanted to be sure that no one could continue in unbelief and go to hell unless they leaped over wall after wall of proven facts.

B. His feeding multitudes with bread and fish which seemed impossible demonstrated how He can save a lost world with a seemingly impossible measure of wonderful mercy and grace. We may never understand how Jesus multiplied the elements in the hands of the disciples, nor may we ever understand how He can dispense mercy and grace to the vilest of sinners through us, but He can and does!

C. Just as He used His disciples to satisfy the physical needs of multitudes with their meager supply, so too He wants to use us who are still in the flesh, and with very little to offer humanly speaking, to satisfy the spiritual needs of a lost world.

## I. THE OVERWHELMING NEED: vv. 1-3

A. A Hungry Multitude:

B. A Lost, Starving World:

1. If the "multitude being very great" (v.1) presented a staggering, if not impossible scenario, how much more the great multitude of a lost world.
2. 66,000 people die each day, the vast majority have never even heard of Christ!

## II. THE ASTONISHING UNBELIEF: v.4

**ILLUS.:** The disciples could only focus on the need or the problem, not the provision and the solution. After having seen the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 you should expect that they would know Jesus could take care of this need as well. But, like us, regardless of how many prayers He has answered or how much mercy, love, grace and forgiveness He has bestowed on us, we still see only the obstacles, problems, and need, instead of His omnipotence.

A. A Lack of Vision:

1. We need to reduce the need commensurate with our ability to meet the need.

B. A Lack of Faith:

1. We think on a purely "seeing is believing" basis when we should be thinking about our Lord's ability to overcome the impossible.

C. A Lack of Funds:

1. Here is the area that we, like the disciples, shorten the Lord's hand.
2. The problem is a lack of faith, not a lack of funds.

**Luke 6:38** *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

## III. THE MEAGER PROVISION: vv.5-7

A. Human Feebleness:

1. They saw only the need and the available amount of food.
2. He saw what should and could be done and He was the answer to the problem.

**ILLUS.:** The population of the planet is pushing 7 billion people, with a 700 billion dollar bailout of the stock market, that figure doesn't impress us any longer(!), but **when you factor in eternity** for humans, it becomes serious. The Lord has a plan to reach all those souls, but he needs disciples to distribute the bread!

- a. Someone had to prepare and provide the food to feed the multitude.
- b. Today, we have to give so His disciples can take the bread of life to the world.

**NOTE:** In the feeding of the 5000 a little boy provided his lunch. Here someone (unnamed) provided “a few small fishes” and “seven loaves” of bread. No one had to really sacrifice; especially the disciples. If everyone at this church would give out of their abundance through the Missions ministry of the church, the need would be met. The problem is we just don’t see the need. We have little vision, little faith and above all lack obedience.

#### **IV. THE MIRACULOUS SUPPLY: vv.7-9**

##### A. Mysterious Multiplication: vv.7,8

1. Jesus promised that believers would do greater works than He had done.

**John 14:12** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

2. The “greater works” would not be in quantity, but in quality; however the combined conversion of sinners immediately after Pentecost would surpass the 4000 fed on this day.
3. The believer would not feed thousands physical food, but would have the capacity to change lives via spreading the Gospel.
4. The Great Commission supersedes physical miracles and was Christ last and greatest command; it is a missionary Commission.

##### B. Sinners Satisfaction: v.9

1. All 4000 not only ate but were satisfied.
2. There is no indication that these folks were saved, but their physical appetites were satisfied; that’s what they were looking for; Jesus fulfilled their desire.
3. Today He wants to fulfill the deep rooted desire of the hungry souls in the world – the need of a Savior and the need of eternity in heaven.

**ILLUS.:** He has not placed bread in our hands to distribute to the multitudes, but He has placed the Manna of His Word in our hands to distribute to them. His Great Commission was for us to satisfy the need in human hearts and souls and to offer all the promise of eternal life.

**CONCL.:** There are people in your family, your neighborhood, your workplace who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and only **YOU** as a believer can supply the need. He has placed the provision in your hands with **His holy Word**, and in your wallet with your **money**, and in your heart with your **prayers**.

**ALL CAN PRAY!  
MOST CAN GIVE!  
SOME CAN GO!**

**WHAT WILL YOU DO?!**