**Jesus The Ultimate Giver**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Mark 8:1-13**

**Wednesday Evening**

**March 6, 2019**

**1 In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, 2 I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."**

Saints, Jesus was ministering in the region of the Ten Towns (7:31), where he had healed a deaf and mute man, causing his popularity to spread throughout the area. It comes as no surprise, then, that another great crowd had gathered.

In this episode, the crowd had been following Jesus for three days, listening to his teaching and observing his miracles. Whatever supplies they had brought along were depleted, so most of them had nothing left to eat.

Jesus was concerned about sending them away hungry. Although the disciples had seen Jesus feed five thousand people, they had no idea what Jesus would do in this situation.

**Matthew 9:36**

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

**Psalm 86:15**

“But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Saints, the Hebrew and Greek words translated “compassion” in the Bible mean “to have mercy, to feel sympathy and to have pity.” We know that, according to the Bible, God is

**Psalm 86:15**

“But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,

Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth”

**Lamentations 3:22-24**

2 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Saints, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, exemplified all of the Father’s attributes, including His compassion. When Jesus saw His friends weeping at the grave of Lazarus, He felt compassion for them and wept alongside them.

**John 11:33-37**

33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept.

Moved with compassion for the suffering of others, Jesus healed the large crowds who came to Him (Matthew 14:14),

**Matthew 14:14**

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.”

Saints, as well as individuals who sought His healing (

**Mark 1:40-42**

40 Then a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." 42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

**4 Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?" 5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."**

Saints, as before, the crowd was in the wilderness, and the disciples asked the obvious question about how they were going to find enough food in such a place. Jesus had already found the resources in a previous remote place for an even larger crowd, and in this instance, when the disciples checked with the crowd, seven loaves were found. Yet the disciples were completely perplexed. Like the disciples, we often forget God’s provision for us in the past.

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

**6 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. 7 They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. 8 So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. 9 Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away,**

Saints, Jesus took the seven loaves and gave thanks to God for the provision he was about to give. He broke apart the loaves and the disciples passed them out as before (6:41). The verbs could read, “Jesus kept on giving bread to the disciples and they kept on distributing it” to the crowd.

A few small fish were found and after blessing them, Jesus ordered that these too should be distributed. As had happened before, each person in the crowd ate and was filled. The seven loaves and few fish multiplied so that even the scraps were more than they had begun with.

**Matthew 17:20**

He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

**Hebrews 11:6**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

**10 immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.**

Saints, once Jesus knew the people had eaten their fill and would not faint from hunger on their journey home (8:3), he sent them on their way. Jesus and the disciples once again got into a boat and sailed to the region of Dalmanutha.

While there is no site identified as “Dalmanutha,” it may have been another name for Magdala or Magadan, a town located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. This was Mary Magdalene’s hometown.

**11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him.**

Saints, upon Jesus’ return to Jewish territory, the Pharisees came to argue with him. They demanded a miraculous sign from heaven—something beyond a mere miracle. A sign was used by God and his prophets to accomplish two purposes:

1. A sign showed trustworthiness or reliability—if a prophet said something would happen and it came to pass, it demonstrated that he was telling the truth from God.

2. A sign showed power—if a message was accompanied by a sign, it authenticated the power and authority of the prophet.

Saints, the Pharisees were asking for a sign to back up Jesus’ claims and miracles. Perhaps they regarded his other miracles merely as random occurrences.

Using the principle from Deuteronomy 13:1-3 and 18:18-22, the Pharisees were trying to draw Jesus into a trap.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-3**

1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--which you have not known--'and let us serve them,'

3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Deuteronomy 18:18-22**

18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21 "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'-- 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Saints, if Jesus could not produce a sign, they could accuse him of being a false prophet. They had already seen and heard about many miracles, but that was not enough for them.

**12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation." 13 And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.**

Saints, Jesus’ sigh was a groan from the depths of his spirit. The obstinate rejection by those who should have been most able and eager to recognize him deeply distressed Jesus.

His rhetorical question reveals his amazement that this generation (represented by these stubborn religious leaders) would ask for a sign—they had already seen many miracles and heard incredible, life-changing teaching. But they chose to reject Jesus. He knew that he could have done any type of spectacular cosmic miracle and they would not believe in him for they had already chosen not to believe in him.

Jesus did not come to earth to convince people to come to him by performing wonders; he came inviting people to come to him in faith, and as a response to their faith, he performed great miracles.

But for these self-righteous religious leaders there was little hope. After this encounter, Jesus left abruptly, got into the boat, and departed back toward the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. This event marked the end of his public ministry in the region of Galilee.

**Matthew 23:14**

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”

**Matthew 23:28-34**

28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'

31 "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

**Let’s Pray**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**