

**Daily Bible Study**

*“Love & Lunch”*

*Mark 8:1-10*

*September 19 - 25, 2010*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – We continue this week in the Gospel of Mark and will be looking at **Mark 8:1-10**. In this lesson entitled “*Love & Lunch*” we’ll see that both love and lunch were served to these people by the Lord Jesus Christ. In our past two lesson texts we have noticed an apparent emphasis by Mark to let his Gentile readers know that Jesus was the Savior of all men, including all ethnicities whether a person was Jew or a Gentile. As Jesus preached and as Scripture proclaims (**Acts 16:31, Romans 10:13**) all who will “*repent and believe*” in Him and His gospel will be saved. This week’s passage also contains another little interesting side note that helps us to yet again understand the fact that salvation is for ALL who will believe regardless of ethnicity. We will see possibly another subtle reminder from Mark concerning this later in the study when we will look back and do a bit of a comparison to Marks record of the other miraculous feeding performed by Jesus from **Mark 6:32-44**. As the song we sometimes sing expresses, in this miracle we see both in attitude and action the demonstration of “*The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*”. Not merely visible by making food to eat, but by the clear look into His heart where we see His compassion and the revealing of His vast, wide, embracing love. We need to look at Jesus our Beloved Savior and not only thank Him for such love toward us sinners but go out with Him as our guide and tell others of His wonderful love. **Mark 8:1 - 10** “*In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 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.” Then His disciples answered Him, “How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?” He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.” 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. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, I thank You for the evidences of Your love and concern for me. Please show me more; instruct, teach and feed me from Your word this week.*

**TUESDAY – Mark 8:1-3** “*In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 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.”* Right away we see what appeared to be the norm with Jesus; there is a *multitude* which is described as being *very great* around Him. As we have mentioned before, the word was “out on the street” concerning the power and miraculous works that Jesus had done; His name and fame were spreading *in those days*. Another interesting observation is made as we look at the geography of this story. **Verse 31** told us that Jesus had come down from the north region of *Tyre and Sidon* and had now come *through the region of Decapolis to The Sea of Galilee*. If you look back at **Mark 5:20** you will notice that the demon possessed man whom Jesus had healed *began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him*. *Decapolis* actually means “ten cities” and describes a tract of land on the eastern side of The Sea of Galilee. This crowd here with Jesus may very well have been the result of the missionary endeavors of the healed demoniac. You remember he had begged Jesus to go with Him but Christ would not permit him but told him to go and *tell what great things the Lord has done for you and how He has had compassion on you*. It is merely an assumption and we can’t be certain but it is quite possible the people who were in the crowd that day, who would eat of the miracle and come to faith in Jesus were drawn by the testimony of a man who had been saved and delivered by The Lord Jesus Christ. The application is simple for us; are we proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus as the demoniac was charged to do? We often complain that the Lord doesn’t seem to be building His church as quick as we would like but we must ask ourselves if we’re fulfilling our responsibility to proclaim and preach Jesus. May we tell others what Jesus has done for us and what He can do for them. Read **Luke 10:2, Acts 1:8, Acts 20:24**.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to be the witness for Jesus that I should be. Give me love for You that will speak out the gospel and live out an honoring testimony to the lost world.*

**WEDNESDAY – Mark 8:1-3** “*In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 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.”* After we are introduced to this massive crowd we now get a look at the compassion of Jesus. Jesus calls the disciples to Himself and He flat out says, “*I have compassion on the multitude...*” *Compassion* is the Greek word (*splagchnizomai*). It describes compassion which moves a person from deep within the bowels or intestines. It literally means “to have the bowels yearn”. This word is used twelve times in Holy Scripture and each time it is used, apart from use in parables, it refers to The Lord Jesus. Also it is interesting that in the three parables where the

word is used (The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, and The Unforgiving Servant) it is always attributed to a character in the story that is depicting God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. This is a compassion beloved that is expressed in deeds. The Scripture is FULL of texts depicting Jesus love, sympathy, tenderness, and outpouring of heart toward sinners (**Matthew 9:36**, **Mark 8:2**, **Luke 7:13**). And we aren't limited to seeing it merely in the twelve instances where the Greek word *splagchnizomai* is found either (**Mark 5:19**, **10:14-16**, **21**, **43-45**). We see many passages of similar import such as **Matthew 8:17**, "*He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*". Often we find Jesus *taking* the condition of the afflicted ones "to heart" as it were. He lived in a culture, as we do, where externals and outward "piety" was emphasized, but He put the emphasis where it belonged, "*on the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith*" (**Matthew 23:23**). Our sorrows are His own sorrows and He has an intense "bowel" love for the burdened one. **Psalms 103:13** "*As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.*" He loves you beloved. With a love greater than the love you & I show for all the things that take away our time, energy, and love from Him.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, Thank You for Your love for me an undeserving wretched sinner. Thank You for adopting me and cleansing me from my sin because of Your great love.*

**THURSDAY– Mark 8:1-5** "*In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 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. Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?" He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven."*" After the initial statement of Jesus in which gives us the broad declaration of His intense *compassion* for the people we see further the text explains to us that He was concerned for both the soul and body of mankind. Jesus was compassionate for their physical needs as well as spiritual needs. This should provide us great encouragement Beloved as we see our Savior is completely concerned with all areas of our lives. What also is important for us to observe and learn from is the fact that Jesus did not feed them in order to persuade them to listen to and hear Him preach. They had already *continued with Him three days*. We need to beware of setting up "outreach" as a type of bait and switch. When a church supper is necessary in order to get people in to listen to the Word of God or the local church is attempting to grow and be built around entertaining events for the youth or snacks to "lure" and "keep" them interested you better not expect a lot of spiritual growth. Jesus didn't operate like that. He WAS concerned for the people as we should be also, but He was providing for them not to get them to come to Him but *because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat*. Now notice that Jesus does not want to be the only one who is compassionate. He engages them as we see in the fact that *Then His disciples answered Him*. He is showing these men that as spiritual leaders they have a responsibility here.

As we saw in the previous miracle recorded also in John Jesus *knew what He would do* (**John 6:6**). Jesus isn't asking them for a loaf count because He is wondering if they might have enough bread to feed 4,000+. It wasn't about that; it was about teaching these men to have a compassion for people that recognizes the need and then does something to meet it. Is this not how 1 John depicts the outworking of love is to be expressed; by sacrificial giving to meet the needs of others? All of us who profess to know Jesus need to be asked the question that Jesus asked of His men; *How many loaves do you have?* Read **1 John 3:16-18**. KJV interestingly translated a portion of that text as "...*who shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him...*" Does that intense "bowel love" sound familiar?

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me be an observant compassionate follower of Jesus by seeing the hurting and the needs around me and doing what I can through Your Holy Spirit to meet them.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 8:6 - 10** *"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. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha."* After Jesus makes the disciples aware that they human power is totally inadequate to meet this need He takes command and *commanded* the people to *sit down on the ground*. He takes what is obviously not nearly enough to feed the people and as He did before, *gave thanks*. Little is much when God is in it. Jesus tells the disciples to pass out the food and it would appear that the miracle occurred as Jesus kept breaking the bread and fish and handed it to the disciples to give to the people. We see that the people didn't just have a taste they were *filled* (chortazo-"satisfy, fill with food, fatten"). In closing we find that as before this was a large crowd, as Mark says *those who had eaten were about four thousand* (men alone-**Matthew 15:38**). Jesus, after seeing the physical needs met of these individuals leaves the area as He moves onward toward fulfillment of the *work* The Father had given Him. That interesting side-note will have to wait till tomorrow's sermon Lord willing. It is found in the phrase *seven large baskets*. Read **Psalms 34:10**.

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Thank You for always caring for and providing for my needs.*