



Miraculous Feeding Of Over 4000

"Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way" (Matthew 15:32).

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"Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. 33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? 34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. 35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. 39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala" (Matthew 15:32-39).

"In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto 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 fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. 4 And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness? 5 And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven. 6 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. 7 And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. 8 So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. 9 And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away. 10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dal-

manutha" (Mark 8:1-10).

Returning from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, to Galilee through the coasts of the Decapolis, multitudes followed Jesus up the mountain where he ministered to them for three days. Before sending them away, He multiplied 7 loaves and a few small fishes to feed them. This miracle teaches us that:

- 1) God is balanced and interested in the total needs of mankind. He first met their spiritual needs before the physical (Matthew 6:33)
- 2) God knows your needs and will provide more than you need. It was not the multitudes that asked for food, but Jesus identified their need and met them (vs 32, 1-2), after 3 days in His presence, on the open mountain with no facilities for meal, refreshing, sleeping, etc! **Staying long in His presence, brings miracles!**
- 3) This miracle was not for power show. Rather it was motivated by the compassion of Jesus for the people. (vs 32,2). God loves you. His love for you will move Him to perform any miracle to meet your needs.
- 4) Despite the earlier miracle of feeding the 5000, the disciples were still "sceptical" about God's power to feed these multitudes of over 4000 (vs 33). Note their question "From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?" (vs 4).
- 5) After organising the people, blessing the bread and fishes, the multitudes ate to their satisfaction and 7 full baskets of leftovers were taken, before Jesus sailed across the sea. God will not abandon you in hunger. He will meet all of your needs, **if you don't run away from Jesus' ministry to search for earthly provisions. Any who left in a hurry, missed the miracle!** Trust in Him.