

# The Miracles of Jesus

## Lesson Twenty-Six

### Feeding of Four Thousand Men

Text: Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9

#### Introduction:

1. While Jesus was in Decapolis, many were brought to Him to be healed.
2. Keep in mind that this region was in the country of the Gentiles across the Jordan River.
3. This crowd was more receptive than the Jews had become, for they came from great distances and stayed with Jesus for three days.
4. So, Jesus again performed a marvelous miracle before the multitude.

#### I. The Miracle

- A. The crowd that was with Jesus had no food to eat, so He would not send them home without feeding them.
- B. The disciples replied that it was not possible for a man to find enough bread in the wilderness to feed the multitude.
  1. They were right – it was impossible for mere men.
  2. However, it was not impossible for God.
  3. How sad it is to think of the possibility that the disciples had already forgotten about the miraculous feeding of the five thousand.
- C. They had only seven loaves and a few little fishes for food.
- D. Yet, Jesus used that small offering to feed the entire multitude.
  1. He commanded the crowd to sit down.
  2. He gave thanks for the food and then divided it among the apostles.
  3. In turn, they distributed it to the multitude.
  4. After everyone had eaten until they were filled, seven baskets were filled with the remains.
- E. In all, about 4,000 men were fed – not counting the women and children.

#### II. The Manifestation

- A. As in the previous miracle of feeding a multitude, Jesus proved His deity by creation.
- B. He also demonstrated great compassion toward the needs of man.

### III. The Message

- A. Jesus is the bread of life.
- B. Repetition is the key to learning, for men often forget.
- C. Consider the events following this miracle...
  - 1. Jesus sent the crowd away and traveled to Dalmanutha in Magdala.
  - 2. The Pharisees and the Sadducees desired a sign from Heaven (Matt. 16:1-4).
  - 3. Jesus departs for the other side of the Sea, north toward Bethsaida.
  - 4. On the way, the disciples learn that they forgot to bring food for their trip.
  - 5. So, when Jesus warned them to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees,” they thought He was talking about literal leaven and bread.
  - 6. Jesus reprimanded them for their lack of understanding – He was speaking of the doctrine of the Pharisees.