How Many Loaves Do You Have?

Jesse LaRue · Mark 6:30–44

INTRODUCTION

- It's exactly in situations like we are living in today, that God tells us not to fear but to believe.
- Three stories of belief. Now we've got three stories of unbelief.
- Even the disciples, despite this miracle, are going to be beset by hardened hearts.

1 Jesus the Compassionate Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:4–16; Psalm 23:1–4; 1 Peter 5:1–4

- We see Jesus as the compassionate shepherd.
- Despite his weariness, Jesus has compassion on the people because they had no one to guide them.
- What does a shepherd do? A shepherd leads. A shepherd feeds. And a shepherd protects.
- I myself will be the shepherd of the sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.
- Is there any more obvious metaphor that Jesus could make that I am the good shepherd than that?
- Are we following not only the chief shepherd, but as our shepherds follow him, are we following their lead?

2 The Disciples: You Give Them Something to Eat

James 2:14–17; Galatians 6:9–10; Mark 4:24–25

- They literally say, send them away. In contrast to Jesus, they do not have compassion on the people.
- What they failed to see was the great opportunity lying right in front of them because of the difficulty.
- And he says to the disciples, you give them something to eat.
- If we are the body and he is the head, then we must be the hands and the feet and the arms and the legs.
- How many loaves do you have? Go and see. Sometimes we've got to do a little self-evaluation.
- Remember that it's not just you, but God working in and through you.

3 Jesus as Provider

Ephesians 3:14–21; 1 Kings 17:8–16; 2 Kings 4

- Doesn't matter how he did it. What matters is that he did it.
- The point of this miracle is that Jesus is not merely a prophet. He is more than a prophet. He acts as God acts.

- This is a creation miracle. Because what is he doing here? He is creating something out of nothing.
- Jesus doesn't just give us what we need, he gives and provides more than we need.
- Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we can ask or think.
- Jesus is our shepherd, provider, and creator. He provides to us in an overflowing fashion.

THE CHALLENGE

How many loaves do you have? Bring them to Master and see what will happen.

MY NOTES