

The Extravagant Provision of Jesus

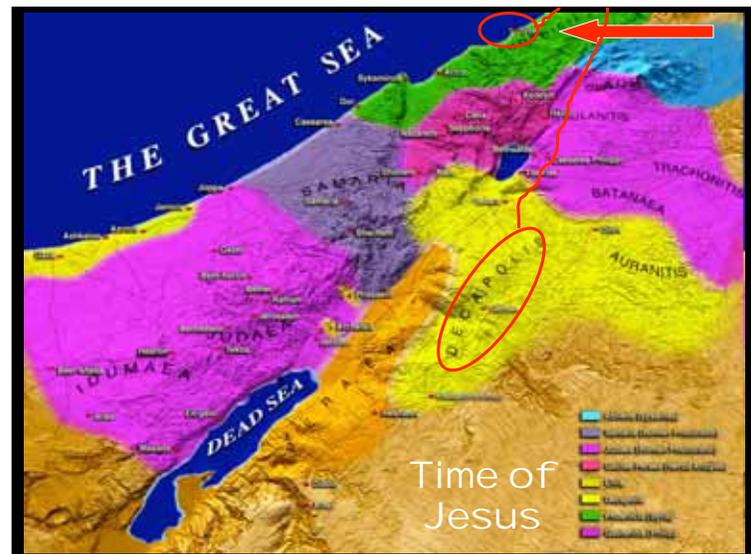
Mark 8:1-9

I. Physical Needs (1-4)

- “In those days”
 - Jesus had traveled into the Decapolis, a predominantly gentile region.
 - And He had been surrounded by large crowds.
 - Cf. Matt. 15:30-31

Two Different Stories

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1) <u>The Feeding of the 5000</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark 6 ■ Recorded in all four gospel records ■ In Bethsaida ■ A predominantly Jewish crowd ■ Adequate food was available but the disciples lacked the resources and time to buy ■ 5 loaves ■ 2 fish ■ 12 baskets of leftovers ■ Time frame: 1 day ■ Jesus rebukes the crowd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2) <u>Feeding of the 4000</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mark 8 ■ Recorded only in Matthew (15) and Mark ■ In Decapolis ■ A predominately Gentile crowd ■ Adequate food supplies weren't available for any amount of money ■ 7 loaves ■ A few small fish ■ 7 large baskets of leftovers ■ Time frame: 3 days ■ No rebuke of the crowd |
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Two Distinct Events

- 1) At different times
- 2) Under different circumstances
- 3) Matthew and Mark record both
- 4) Unequivocal statements of Christ
 - These statements appear in both books that record both episodes.
 - Matt. 16:9-10; Mark 8:19-20

Mark 6 vs. Mark 8

- 1) In the Decapolis, there were far fewer people and cities.
 - So resources, food were scarcer.
- 2) In Mark 8, the season of the year has changed.
 - In Mark 6, they sat down on the green grass.
 - It was spring.
 - But as summer came and the desert winds blew, the vegetation began to dry up.
 - So in Mark 8, there were no crops still growing.



Hillside near Chorazin - spring



Kursi - summer



Chorazin - summer

Mark 8:1-9

- I. Physical Needs (1-4)
- II. Supernatural Supply (5-7)
- III. Typical Extravagance (8-9)



Kursi slope - spring

What Kind of Basket?

- Feeding of the 5000
 - Small basket a traveler would carry with a day or two's provision of food and water.
- Feeding of the 4000
 - A larger basket.
 - In the papyri this kind of basket is described as holding 50 loaves of bread.
 - Acts 9:25 - but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.



IV. Spiritual Lessons

- 1) Jesus again proves His unlimited power over the creation.
 - Seeing Jesus power was supposed to build their faith in Him.
 - Cf. [8:19-20](#) – where Jesus reminds them of the numbers.
 - 5 loaves, 5000 men, 12 baskets.
 - 7 loaves, 4000 men, 7 large baskets.



IV. Spiritual Lessons

- 2) Jesus feels compassion toward our physical needs.
- 3) God actually provides for the physical needs of His people.
- 4) Jesus not only provides spiritual food for our souls, He is the food for our souls.