

FEEDING OF THE FOUR THOUSAND

Intro. Some think this only echo of 5000. But (1) localities diff. 5000 at head of lake near entrance of Jordan, district of Bethsaida. 4000 eastern shore, region of Decapolis not far from outlet of Jordan. (2) circumstances diff. 5000 X had crossed lake for rest and multitudes followed by land and at end of day sent followers away in boat and He walked on water. 4000 on return from Tyre and Sidon. After miracle He crossed lake but no storm. 5000 in His presence 1 day; 4000 3 days. 12 baskets vs 7. (3) Words of X. Mt 16:9,10; Mk 8:19-21. Had healed a dumb man, Mk 7:31ff who was part of the crowd mentioned by Mt 15:29-31. Theme: As in 5000 X the bread of life. Spiritual Food. Feasting Forever.

I. The SOURCE of the Bread.

- A. Not through good men. Good men as the disciples were and religious and very close to God are always in themselves found to be (1) insufficient--whence have we so much even tho they had 7 loaves and a few fishes bec ultimately (2) incapable since man can't be the source of the supply of bread of life. Jn 6:35. Men can dispense but not supply.
- B. But through the God-man. God is capable bec (1) he alone knows man's real needs and (2) He alone can fully provide. But God is also Compassionate. Capability without compassion worthless. Multitude there 3 days and Mk says they were far from home. X not willing to take chance of sending them away and having them faint. X concerned about exhausted condition of mankind. Rom 5:6. But God must become man and X was such. He knew about hunger, Mt 4:2. He really knows our needs. If there's going to be supply we've got to look at the right source.

II. The SUPPLY of the Bread.

- A. Free. People couldn't provide nor buy. But could be thankful for it and acknowledge it as from God as X did. Evidently He blessed the bread and distributed, then the fishes.
- B. Full. 4000 stomachs attest to it. Least we can do is thank God. Story of Scottish covenanters. Stranger came in and sot refuge in cave. Girl offered him food first and he didn't give thanks. Knew he was a spy.

III. The SUFFICIENCY of the Bread.

- A. The Extent of it. To Jews and Gentiles. 5000 were Jews. 4000 Gentiles. On east side of Galilee which doesn't prove but $\kappa\omicron\phi\lambda\nu\omicron\varsigma$ instead of $\sigma\nu\pi\iota\varsigma$ ~~spuris~~ indicates. Spuris was Jewish purse and small. kophinos was Gentile made of rope and larger. P let down in one, Acts 9:25. Cf Mt 15:31 ~~God~~ of Israel indicates. X's Bread offered to all.
- B. The Excess of it. 7 baskets remained. How silly to worry if I can get along without certain pleasures or smoking if become a Xn. X fills full and there's always some left over. Dalmanutha uncertain. Prob near Tiberias.