

The Miracles of Jesus
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Miracle: "A Happening with Which Human Reasoning Has Yet To Catch Up."

-Dr. William Augustus Jones

Miracle #24 – Jesus Feeds 4000

Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-10

We will present Mark's account of this miracle.

The Feeding of 5000 versus the Feeding of 4000

1. 5000 - - - People who were fed – (Jesus).
4000 - - - People who were fed (Gentiles).
2. 5000 - - - People had been with Jesus one day.
4000 - - - People had been with Jesus three days.
3. 5000 - - - 5 loaves and 2 fishes
4000 - - - 7 loaves and a few small fishes
4. 5000 - - - Disciples were told to go and see what they could find.
4000 - - - Disciples already knew what they had before Jesus asked.
5. 5000 - - - People sat on green grass.
4000 - - - People sat on the ground where there was no grass.
6. 5000 - - - Twelve baskets of food were left over.
4000 - - - Seven baskets of food were left over.
7. 5000 - - - Jesus blessed the loaves.
4000 - - - Jesus gave thanks and blessed the food.

• **Mark 8:1-4**

Jesus had been carrying out healing miracles for a great crowd. On the 3rd day Jesus expressed compassion and concern. As a compassionate Saviour, He is always concerned about the well-being of others. The Lord Jesus Christ cares! Interestingly, you will note how quickly people

forget. Although, the disciples had witnessed the earlier feeding of 5000, they again expressed confusion about how this crowd would be fed.

According to how the Jews regarded time, the “3 days” the crowd was without food doesn’t imply they had not eaten for 72 hours. An evening, the following day, and the next morning – as little as 30 hours – would be considered “3 days.” Even so, 30 hours were a long time without anything to eat.

The people were fasting. They had given up “eating” in order to draw nearer to Jesus.

Fasting – a religious observance where people are willing to go without something they need or enjoy for a period of time to show one’s sincerity and earnestness of their requests of God.

More commonly associated with food, there are a number of fasts; such as not watching your favorite TV programs, not using your cell phone for talking or texting, not listening to certain music, etc. Fasting is giving up something to show discipline of one’s soul and body for greater service and commitment to God.

- **Mark 8:5-10**

Jesus took the little food His disciples had taken up and multiplied it to supply food for thousands. Matthew’s account in chapter 15 says, “There were 4000 men besides women and children.” There were about 12,000 to 15,000 persons who were fed. Upon gathering the left overs, there were 7 baskets full.

The bounty of Christ is inexhaustible. Christ gave evidence of this by repeating the miracle of feeding so many with so little. The favor of God is renewed as our wants and necessities are.

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