



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 10.09.2023

TRULY SATISFIED

Preacher

Pastor Cam Hall

Scripture - Mark 8:1-17

1 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **2** “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. **3** If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

4 His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

5 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.

6 He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. **7** They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. **8** The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. **9** About four thousand were present. After he had sent them away, **10** he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.



11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. **12** He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.” **13** Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. **15** “Be careful,” Jesus warned them. “Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

16 They discussed this with one another and said, “It is because we have no bread.”

17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?”

Thought

Our dear friends, the disciples are at it again... Jesus has performed yet another mind-blowing miracle of grace, compassion, and provision and our brothers, like the Pharisees, have seen, but totally missed the point. While these writers seem happy to poke fun at the early days of these apprentices to Jesus, in their brilliant way, they expose the condition of our own hearts as well.

The reality is, the sting and strain of life narrows all of our perspectives at time into a kind of tunnel vision of the soul. The tricky thing about tunnel vision is it seems to be unidirectional. We see the stream of issues mounting up in front of us and PANIC (understandably!). But, at the same time, we lose sight of how God has carried us so lovingly and faithfully to get us here.

This limiting perspective has a way of sneaking into our communication with God. We just need *that* new job, or our kids on *that* team, or to pay *that* bill. And so we bring these items to God. We all do it.

And it's OK.



The gospel writers showed Jesus' abundant generosity and compassion in caring about the physical needs of those he encountered. They matter to him.

-AND-

He is constantly inviting us into trusting for so much more. Not only physical water, but Living Water (John 4:1-26); not simply healing the body, but of the soul (Mark 2:1-12); he didn't just break and give bread for temporary sustenance, he gave his own body to be broken for eternal life (Luke 22:19; John 6:1-59).

It's precisely *who* Jesus is, and *what* he has done, that in the ceremony of communion we are called *to remember* (Luke 22:19).

This memory, both for the disciples AND for us, refreshes our faith and brings us home to the reality that it's only Jesus in whom we can truly be satisfied.

Discussion Points

1. What are some areas you have seen God's faithfulness, yet still find it hard to trust? What might it look like to begin placing your confidence in Jesus in these areas in practical ways?
2. Sometimes, we can clearly see the work that God is doing in our lives; the people in this passage witnessed a miracle first-hand. Other times, we need to slow down and intentionally choose to live with a heart open to see God at work. Take a moment to reflect on what the Lord has been doing in your life. Write down a few examples, or share with your group.
3. We all move through different seasons in our journey with Jesus. Some feel more spiritually filling and others more empty. What kind of season does this feel like for you? How can the group pray for you in this season?



Personal application + Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you are ever present in our struggles and always working in and through us. We now intentionally remember how you have carried us so lovingly and faithfully through our life. Thank you that where there is lack of faith and hope that you bring abundance through your Spirit. When we struggle to surrender our worries to You, help us trust Your plan and Your ability to care for us. Would you fill us with a fresh revelation of Your love? Thank you that You have brought us so far, and you will never abandon or fail us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.