

Chapter 8

¹In those days there was another large crowd with nothing to eat. Summoning the disciples, Jesus said to them, ²“I have compassion for the crowd because they have remained with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. ³If I send them away hungry to their homes they will faint on the way. Some of them have come from far away.”

⁴His disciples answered him, “Where can anyone find enough bread to feed these people here in this desolate place?”

⁵Then he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?”

“Seven” they replied.

⁶Jesus commanded the crowd to sit on the ground. He took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute, and they gave the bread to the crowd.

⁷They also had a few small fish. After blessing them, Jesus instructed that they be distributed as well. ⁸Then the people ate and were satisfied, and they filled seven baskets with the broken pieces that were left over. ⁹There were about four thousand men.

Then Jesus sent them away ¹⁰and immediately entered the boat with his disciples and went to the area of Dalmanutha.

¹¹Now the pharisees came and started disputing with him, demanding that he produce a heavenly sign, in order to test him. ¹²He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? I tell you, beyond any doubt, that no sign will be given to this generation.”

¹³Then he left them, got into the boat again, and crossed to the other side.

¹⁴But, the disciples had forgotten to take bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵Jesus admonished them, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the pharisees and of the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶So a dispute began among them because they had no bread.

¹⁷Knowing this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you disputing about not having bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Have your hearts become hardened? ¹⁸Do your eyes not see? Do your ears not hear? Don’t you remember ¹⁹when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand? How many full baskets of broken pieces did you gather?”

They said, “Twelve.”

²⁰“What about the seven loaves for the four thousand? How many full baskets of broken pieces did you gather?”

“Seven,” they said.

²¹Then he said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

²²They came to Bethsaida where some people brought a blind man to him. They begged Jesus to touch him. ²³Taking the blind man’s hand, Jesus led him outside the village. After spitting into his eyes and laying his hands on him, Jesus asked him, “Do you see anything?”

²⁴As he regained his sight he was saying, “I see people, but they look like walking trees.”

²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on the man’s eyes again. He opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶Then Jesus sent him to his home, saying, “Do not go into the village.”

²⁷Jesus and his disciples traveled to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus was questioning his disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸They answered him, “John the Baptizer; others say Elijah; but others say one of the prophets.”

²⁹Jesus questioned them further, “Who do *you* say I am?”

Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰Then he strictly warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes. He must be killed and rise again after three days.”

³²Now Jesus spoke openly about this. So, Peter took him aside and was rebuking him.

³³But when Jesus turned and saw his disciples, he rebuked Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! Your mind is not focused on the godly things but on human things.”

³⁴Then Jesus summoned the crowd and his disciples and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and the Good News will save it. ³⁶For what profit is there for a person to gain the whole world but suffer the loss of his soul? ³⁷What can a person give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”