

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Mark 6:35-44

July 30, 2017

Learn to look to heaven first for your daily bread.

What is the significance of the feeding of the 5000?

- While simply stated, it is stunning.
 - ♦ ⁴¹ *Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.*
 - Imagine being 1 of the 12. Look at what would be a meager meal for 13 - serving 51-101 dining groups. What will happen?
 - Did it multiply as Jesus gave it to them or they to the people or among the people? We can imagine the 12 went from perplexed to excited.
 - ♦ ⁴² *They all ate and were satisfied,* ⁴³ *and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.* ⁴⁴ *The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.* (plus women and children)
 - They ate their fill and had 5 - 5 gal. pails of leftovers. 20 - 50 X!
 - ♦ The Feeding of the 5000: the only miracle of Jesus in all 4 Gospels
 - This miracle directly benefited more people than any other miracle.
 - Is it only important because it's impressive? There's more.

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- ❖ **Self-reliance** is limiting and **self-serving**
 - John 6 tells us Jesus was testing the 12
 - ♦ Context hints at it. When sent out - instructed to rely on God to provide
 - Care for the people, but approached Jesus with a man-made solution
 - ♦ Limited: limited resources - limited thinking: didn't consider God
 - Jesus said, *Give them something to eat.* Response: **self-reliance/man**
 - ♦ 200 denarii = 34 weeks wage of a day laborer
 - John 6:7 Philip said: *enough bread for each one to have a bite*
 - ♦ Is that the right way to use our ministry funds?
 - ♦ Limiting solutions to human resources - *God helps those who help themselves. Take charge and DIY (do it yourself).* Not just self-reliant, but serving your own importance - *I'm the solution.* Why bother God?
 - Prepares 1 to **despair** in **self**: *How many loaves do you have? Go and see.*
 - ♦ Andrew: *five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?* John 6:9

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- ❖ Start by looking up to the Father. His mercy and supplies are stunning!
 - Jesus turned to the Source - God the Father - seeking his blessing
 - ♦ **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.** James 1:17
 - ♦ **your Father in heaven... causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** Matt. 5:45
 - ♦ ²⁵ *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”* ²⁶ *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* Matt. 6
 - ♦ In Athens Paul notes the Cretan philosopher Epimenides got it right: **For in him we live and move and have our being.** Acts 17:28
 - ♦ Paul in Lystra: *We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.* ¹⁶ *In the past, he let all nations go their own way.* ¹⁷ *Yet he has not left himself without testimony: **He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.*** Acts 14
 - Our God, the Living God, is the daily source of all good - **pure grace!**
 - ♦ **Faith** not only knows this grace, but **relies on it**, thinks, acts, lives it!
 - ♦ Start with prayer. Look to him for solutions and blessings. Give thanks.

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- ❖ Faith looks to God to serve him, not to sit back and be lazy.
 - We can do nothing unless God daily enables and blesses us.
 - Our actions serve him as our God grateful for the privilege/relationship.
 - Sitting back and expecting God to serve us isn't faith. **It's arrogance.**
 - ♦ It sees **me as the center** of my life and God as my butler.
 - Imagine if the 12 said, *Jesus, it's late. Do you have a plan for food?*
 - ♦ Daily his plan is to use what he provides and plan to serve accordingly.
 - ♦ In faith we acknowledge this with meal prayers (not mindless)
 - ♦ Let it serve to remind us in daily routine or extreme circumstances...

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