

## LEFT OVERS

Can God supply all our needs? The Disciples struggled with that idea... and so do many of us. Why do we have such a hard time trusting God in this and how can we learn to believe Him more?

I read a supposedly true story of a family that was sitting down at the dinner table for their evening meal. But one of the girls wasn't happy because they were having leftovers, and she complained about it.

The dad was not happy about that and spent a few moments explaining to her that she needed to be more thankful for what she had. In order to make sure she understood his point, he decided that she should ask blessings and that her prayer should show her appreciation for what she had.

So she bowed her head and then prayed:

"Thank you for this food... again."

That's a story about some leftovers.

Mark 8:8 tells us that "the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over."

You see Jesus had done this food thing once before. If we go back a couple chapters in Mark we see Jesus doing this food thing for another crowd.

Mark 6:34-38 tells us that

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

The Disciples hadn't learned much from the first time Jesus did this. It's almost identical down to the conversation Jesus has with them:

Jesus says: "If I send (the crowd) home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."

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

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied."

Jesus is serving up leftovers.

He'd doing His food thing... a 2nd time.

But they hadn't learned so Jesus had to teach them the same lesson AGAIN. They had to learn the lesson all over again. It was kind of a "spiritual leftover" thing.

Jesus feeds 5000 people in Mark 6

Then He feeds 4000 people in Mark 8

And just a few verses after that we read something really odd in Mark 8:14-21. Jesus barely gets done feeding the 4000 then he gets into a boat with the 12.

"The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat.

'Be careful,' Jesus warned them. 'Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.'

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

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? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?

When I broke the 5 loaves for the 5000, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?’

‘Twelve,’ they replied.

‘And when I broke the 7 loaves for the 4000, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?’

They answered, ‘Seven.’

He said to them, ‘Do you still not understand?’”

What was it that they didn’t understand?

They’d seen Jesus feed 5000 people with 5 loaves and have 12 baskets of leftovers.

They’d seen Jesus feed 4000 people with 7 loaves and have 7 baskets of leftovers.

Now here they sit with one loaf... and they wonder if there’s going to be enough to go around.

What didn’t they understand?

They didn’t understand that Jesus could supply all their needs.

Philippians 4:19 Paul wrote: “... my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

But the disciples struggled with that.

They’d been there when Jesus fed the 5000 and when He’d fed the 4000, but they still struggled with the idea that Jesus could supply all their needs.

And frankly, we all struggle with that at one time or another.

We all struggle with the faith to believe that God will supply all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

A repeated theme in Scripture: Is waiting on God.

Over and over again in the Bible: Wait on God.

Psalm 27:14 says “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

And how are we supposed to “wait?”

Psalm 5:3 says “...I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

In expectation: that’s how we are supposed to wait ?

How could I possibly wait on God in expectation.

In Luke 13:29 Jesus said “People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

In Revelation 19:9 an angel tells John, "Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’”

It’s going to a special meal!

And we’ll never be hungry again and we’ll not need to worry about leftovers ever again because we’ll be forever in God’s presence and eating at His table.

But we can’t take part in that great meal until we first have God’s spirit in us..

And because God has given us His Spirit through His Son .....We wait.