

THE COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR

--MARK 8:1-10--

INTRODUCTION:

Over the past two weeks we have been looking at the time Jesus and His disciples spent among the Gentiles. This time in Gentile territory ended in the Decapolis which I said bordered the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Gentiles of the Decapolis knew about Jesus because of the man whom Jesus had cast the legion of demons out of, he had become the first home missionary telling the Gentiles about all that Jesus had done for him and how Jesus had showed him mercy. When the news spread, that Jesus had returned to their region, massive crowds came out to meet Him on a mountainside near the lake. They brought to Him the sick, the lame and crippled, the blind, the deaf and mute and all that were brought to Him He healed. The result of His miracles was that the Gentile crowd marveled, and Matthew tells us that they glorified the God of Israel. This morning's passage and the miraculous event that occurred concludes Jesus' trip through the Gentile areas. Again, in this passage we see the great compassion of God on display through the compassionate Savior as He ministers to the people.

I. JESUS' SYMPATHETIC COMPASSION (Mark 8:1-3)

- a. When Jesus first created the _____ that fed the 5000 men, plus women and children that had taken place on the northeast side of the lake.
- b. Mark informs us that in those days, the days that Jesus was in the Decapolis, there was a large _____ that had come out of the cities to this remote place on a hillside by the lake.
- c. Mark continues and says, "*Jesus called His disciples and said to them, 'I feel _____ for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat.'*" (Mark 8:1-2, NASB95)
- d. Because the Lord Jesus is _____, His life was marked by divine compassion.

II. DISCIPLES' SHORT-SIGHTED CONFUSION (Mark 8:4-5)

- a. Jesus voicing His _____ for the people required a response from the disciples.
- b. If the Twelve had any doubts about what was going to happen, it was not Jesus' power or His ability to create food for these people, but they may have questioned His _____.
- c. Jesus already knew how He was going to _____ this crowd.

III. JESUS' SUPERNATURAL CREATION (Mark 8:6-10)

- a. As Jesus had done when He had previously fed the crowd, Jesus directed this crowd to _____ down on the ground.
- b. Jesus effortlessly started giving pieces of _____ to the disciples and the disciples served them to the people.
- c. Mark tells us that everyone ate and were _____.
- d. Mark remarks that about _____ thousand were there, this number only refers to the number of men that were present.
- e. Mark ends this passage of three days of intense ministry, filled with miraculous healings and ending in a supernatural meal, by telling us that Jesus _____ the region of Decapolis and returned to Galilee for a short time.

CONCLUSION:

The trip Jesus took into Gentile territory was for the purpose of a time of personal training for the Twelve. During this time with Jesus, the disciples received invaluable preparation in at least four areas. First, they were exposed to Jesus divine person. Second, they learned that the ultimate priority in life is worship. Third, having witnessed and participated in both meals that Jesus miraculously created, they began to understand the divine resources available to them. Fourth, they saw the Lord's compassion dramatically displayed toward people whom first-century Jews generally treated with scorn.

All the miracles of Jesus show that it is God's nature to care for those in need. The compassion of God reached its zenith at the cross. To satisfy the crowds hunger required compassion and miraculous power, but to save their souls for eternity required supernatural sacrifice. Jesus Christ willing went to the cross to bear the full penalty of sin for all who would ever put their believing faith in Him.