

# FEEDING FOUR THOUSAND

January 29, 2017

Mark 8

Our heavenly Father gives new perspective for a new year.

## **MARK 8:1-3 – COMPASSION**

*“About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, “I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance.”* (NLT)

2 Corinthians 1:3 – Father of compassion

- *compassion* – deep feelings about your difficulty or misfortune

Deuteronomy 31:8 (AMP) – *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”*

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) – *“This is my command--be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

- Lance slide – 1 John 4:4

## **MARK 8:4-5 – PERSPECTIVE**

*“His disciples replied, “How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?” Jesus asked, “How much bread do you have?” “Seven loaves,” they replied.”* (NLT)

- Their first response was that there wasn't enough.
- Where is your focus—on what you don't have or on what you do have?

Moses made excuses as to why he couldn't lead the Israelites to freedom—he doubted his ability (Exodus 4).

- God asked, “What is that in your hand?” Moses replied, “A shepherd's staff.”
- Moses didn't see the potential in his staff to help lead Israel out of slavery.
- What seems insignificant to us becomes mighty when God anoints us.
- Sampson had a donkey jawbone that slayed a thousand men.
- Esther had her connection with the king that came because of her beauty.
- David had his sling and stones to defeat Goliath that terrorized everyone else.
- A woman had an alabaster jar filled with oil to anoint Jesus.
- We all have something in our hands that God can use.

What's in your "hand"...your voice

- It's the platform by which you reach people and influence your environment.
- It might be writing, a seat in government, playing an instrument—it's the outward expression of what's inside you and the anointing that's on you.
- Some give up their voice because of tragedy, disappointment or shame.
- Maya Angelo story

### **Mark 8:6-7 – THANKSGIVING**

*"So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd. A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them."* (NLT)

- A key for our year—let everything start and end in thanksgiving.
- Be thankful for what you do have, even if it feels like it's small.

**Philippians 4:6 (NLT) – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."**

- *anxious* – to be divided, distracted; to go to pieces because you're being pulled apart in different directions
- *thanksgiving* – being thankful for His blessings
- *thanks* – to be actively grateful—to express it
- "In EVERY situation", be thankful.
- Being thankful promotes physical and emotional health.

### **Mark 8:8 - ABUNDANCE**

*"They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food."* (NLT)

- The people ate as much as they wanted—you have a vast supply through Jesus.
- There was abundant food left to feed another crowd.
- God will use your breakthroughs to break other people free too.
- You have the small beginnings of a miracle in your hand.