

Mark 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.

Analysis

The disciples had forgotten to take bread—immediately after two miraculous feedings (5,000 and 4,000), the disciples worry about provisions. The irony is staggering—the Bread of Life sits in their boat, yet they fret about literal bread. This forgetfulness reveals spiritual dullness that Jesus will rebuke (vv. 17-21). **Neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf**—they have Jesus (the one true Bread, John 6:35) but don't recognize His sufficiency.

This verse sets up Jesus' teaching about the Pharisees' leaven (v. 15). The disciples' concern about physical bread blinds them to spiritual danger—they focus on material needs while missing ideological threats. Their forgetfulness demonstrates that witnessing miracles doesn't automatically produce spiritual understanding. Cognitive knowledge of Jesus' power must become heart-deep trust, a transformation only the Spirit accomplishes.

Historical Context

Bread was the primary staple in first-century Palestine, comprising 50-70% of daily caloric intake. Travelers carried flatbread, dried fish, and cheese for journeys. The disciples' concern about forgetting bread was reasonable from a practical standpoint—they faced a boat journey and uncertain food sources ahead. However, their anxiety after witnessing two miraculous feedings reveals how quickly human beings default to self-reliance despite experiencing God's supernatural provision.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the disciples' bread-anxiety after two miraculous feedings expose your tendency toward forgetfulness and worry?
2. What does having 'one loaf' (Jesus) while worrying about many loaves reveal about spiritual blindness to Christ's sufficiency?
3. In what areas are you operating from scarcity-thinking despite past evidence of God's faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπελάθοντο	λαβεῖν	ἄρτον	καὶ	εἰ	μὴ	ἓνα
Now	the disciples had forgotten	to take	bread	Now	G1487	G3361	one
G2532	G1950	G2983	G740	G2532			G1520
ἄρτον	οὐκ	εἶχον	μεθ'	ἐαυτῶν	ἐν	τῷ	πλοίῳ
bread	G3756	had	with	them	they in	G3588	the ship
G740		G2192	G3326	G1438	G1722		G4143

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