

Mark 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.

Analysis

He commanded the people to sit down on the ground—Jesus orders (παραγγέλλω, parangellō) the crowd, demonstrating His authority over the multitude. **He took the seven loaves, and gave thanks** (εὐχαριστήσας, eucharistēsas)—the same verb from which we derive 'Eucharist,' signifying grateful acknowledgment of God's provision. Jesus models dependence on the Father even in miraculous acts.

He brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them—the pattern mirrors the feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:41) and the Last Supper (14:22), establishing Jesus as the true Bread who multiplies provision through His servants. The disciples function as mediators of Christ's abundance, foreshadowing the church's sacramental ministry. This second feeding (4,000 in Gentile Decapolis vs. 5,000 in Jewish Galilee) demonstrates that Jesus' messianic provision extends beyond ethnic Israel to all nations.

Historical Context

This feeding occurred in the Decapolis region (Mark 7:31), predominantly Gentile territory east of the Sea of Galilee. The crowd had remained with Jesus three days (v. 2), suggesting Gentile eagerness to hear Jewish teaching—remarkable given

first-century Jewish-Gentile tensions. The disciples' distribution role recalls OT manna provision (Exodus 16), where Moses mediated God's bread to Israel. Early church fathers saw these two feeding miracles (5,000 and 4,000) as symbols of gospel proclamation to Jews and Gentiles respectively.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' thanksgiving before the miracle demonstrate that gratitude should precede, not follow, God's provision?
2. What does the disciples' role as distributors reveal about how Christ works through His church to feed spiritually hungry people?
3. How do the two feeding miracles (Jewish and Gentile audiences) prefigure the gospel's universal scope?

Interlinear Text

καὶ παρήγγειλεν τῷ ὄχλῳ ἀναπεσεῖν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς·
And he commanded G3588 the people G3793 to sit down G377 on G1909 G3588 the ground G1093
G2532 G3853 G2983 G3588 G2033 G740 G2168 G2806

καὶ λαβὼν τοὺς ἑπτὰ ἄρτους εὐχαριστήσας ἔκλασεν
And he took G3588 the seven G2033 loaves G740 and gave thanks G2168 and brake G2806
G2532 G2983 G3588 G3101 G846 G2443 G3908 G2532

καὶ ἐδίδοι τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ἵνα παρέθηκαν καὶ
And gave G3588 disciples G3101 to G846 set before G3908 And G2532
G1325 G3588 G3908 G3793

παρέθηκαν τῷ ὄχλῳ
set before G3588 the people G3793

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:17 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

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