

Mark 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

Analysis

They had a few small fishes (ἰχθύδια, ichthydia)—the diminutive form emphasizes the smallness of resources. **He blessed** (εὐλογήσας, eulogēsas) them separately from the bread, showing Jesus' meticulous thanksgiving for all provisions, however meager. The verb eulogeō means to speak well of, to invoke divine favor—Jesus doesn't merely pray over food but pronounces God's blessing upon it.

The separate blessing of fish and bread demonstrates that nothing is too small or insignificant for Christ's transforming power. Reformed theology emphasizes God's sovereignty over all creation—Jesus' blessing reveals His divine authority to command nature's resources. This foreshadows the post-resurrection breakfast (John 21:9-13) where the risen Christ again provides fish and bread, demonstrating continuity between His earthly ministry and resurrection life.

Historical Context

Fish was a staple protein in first-century Galilee and Decapolis. The Sea of Galilee's fishing industry was central to the regional economy. Small dried or pickled fish (like sardines) were common travel provisions, easily preserved and transported. The specific mention of 'small fishes' highlights the inadequacy of human resources apart from divine multiplication. Early Christian fish symbolism (ichthys as acronym for 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior') may connect to these feeding miracles.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' blessing of even 'a few small fishes' challenge assumptions about what God can or cannot use?
2. What does the separate blessing of different food items teach about attentiveness and gratitude for specific provisions?
3. How might God be waiting to multiply the seemingly insignificant resources you've been hesitant to offer Him?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶχον	ἰχθύδια	ὀλίγα·	καὶ	εὐλόγησας	εἶπεν
And	they had	small fishes	a few	And	he blessed	and commanded
G2532	G2192	G2485	G3641	G2532	G2127	G2036
παραθεῖναι	καὶ	αὐτὰ				
before	And	them				
G3908	G2532	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 14:19 (Blessing): And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.