

Jesus is Our Great Provider Mark 8:1-26

Our Truth: Jesus is a compassionate, faithful and generous provider Mark 8:1-9

Mark 8:6 – *“And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people.”*

- Jesus is a compassionate provider (Mark 8:1-3)
- Jesus is a faithful provider (Mark 8:4-7)
- Jesus is a generous provider (Mark 8:8-9)
 - Large (“spyrís”) baskets of bread left over
 - Then Jesus declared, *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”* (John 6:35)

Our Problem: We forget so quickly what Jesus has provided for us Mark 8:10-21

Mark 8:17-18 – *“And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember.”*

- Skeptics are never satisfied (Mark 8:10-12)
- How quickly we develop spiritual amnesia (Mark 8:13-18)
- To trust God’s provision for the future, you need to look back at His provision from the past (Mark 8:19-21)

Our Prayer: Jesus, open our eyes to see you as the Great Provider Mark 8:23-26

Mark 8:25 - *“Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.”*

- The disciples slow journey in understanding what Jesus truly provided (Mark 8:23-26)
- *“Amazing grace how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I’m found, Was blind but now I see.”*
- *“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:34).

“A constant temptation for us is to look at the scarcity of what we have, the size of the problems before us, and our sins and weakness. We forget who we are and that what we have is irrelevant. We have a miraculous Lord and He has us. “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.” - Pete Scazzero (Author and Pastor in New York)

Digging Deeper

A comparison of the feeding of the multitudes (Jesus clearly states there were two feedings in Mark 8:19-20)

Mark 6:33-44	Mark 8:1-9
5,000 men (+20,000 people)	4,000 people total
Jesus had compassion on the crowd	Jesus had compassion on the crowd
5 loaves and 2 fish	7 loaves and a few small fish
1 day in the wilderness	3 days in the wilderness
Springtime and North of the Sea of Galilee	No mention of time/Southeast of Sea of Galilee
12 baskets full of leftovers	7 baskets full of leftovers
One prayer offered by Jesus	Two prayers offered by Jesus
Mostly Jewish audience	Mostly Gentile audience

Blind people Jesus healed (in chronological order):

Many blind people in Galilee	Luke 7:21
A man who was demon possessed	Matthew 12:22
Two blind men in Galilee	Matthew 9:27-34
Many blind people in Galilee	Matthew 15:30-31
A blind man in Bethsaida	Mark 8:22-23
A man blind from birth from Jerusalem	John 9:1-41
Two blind beggars near Jericho, one of whom was Bartimaeus	Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43
Some blind people in the temple precincts	Matthew 21:14

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. How has God provided for you in the past? (Share stories)
2. Why is it so easy to forget Jesus is our provider? (Think of ways to remind yourself in daily life that God provides)
3. How do you need Jesus to provide for you today? (Spend time praying for one another)

Next Steps:

PLACE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS as your Savior (forgiver of sins) and Lord (leader of your life) today. The Bible tells us, *"if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Romans 10:9) Let us know of your response today using The Card (in the seat rack) or discover more at calvarylife.org/jesus

BE BAPTIZED: Baptism is an outward and public declaration of your inward faith in Jesus Christ. Our next baptism is Sunday, August 12th at Corona Del Mar State Beach at 5:00pm. To learn more about baptism come to our free, 1-hour class today or next Sunday at 9am or 11am in the Worship Center Prayer Room or visit calvarylife.org/baptism

