

Mark 6:31 – 8:26: the two feeding story cycles

John Nordin, November 2006

6:31 – 6:44 Feeding of the 5,000

33-34 – Jesus has compassion on leaderless people.

35-44 – The miracle

- In Galilee (Jewish territory)
- 5 loaves + 2 fish
- Quantity left over: 12 baskets
- In physical wilderness, but a spiritual blessings

6:45-55 Jesus walks on water (crossing the lake)

- From Galilee (Jewish) to Gennesaret (headed for Bethsaida)

7:1-23 Controversy with Pharisees about clean and unclean (eating with defiled hands)

- Rebuking the Pharisees
- Nothing outside can defile.
- Explaining to the disciples who did not understand.

7:24-30 Faith of a Syrophenician woman

- Region of Tyre (Gentile)
- Seeking solitude in a house.
- Drives out the demon.

7:31-37 Healing of a deaf and mute man

- In the Decapolis (Gentile territory)
- Jesus warns “them” to tell no one.
- They disobey.

8:1-9 Feeding of the 4,000

1-2 Jesus has compassion on hungry people

3-9 The miracle

- In the Decapolis (Gentile territory)
- 7 loaves & a few fish
- Quantity left over: 7 baskets
- In utter wilderness, but a spiritual blessing

8:10 Going by boat to Dalmanutha

- No events

8:11-13 Controversy with Pharisees about signs

- There will be no sign
- In the boat with the disciples crossing over.

8:14-21 The leaven of the Pharisees

- Returning by boat from a solitary place
- Disciples do not understand about the signs of the two feedings.

8:22-26 Healing of a blind man

- In Bethsaida (boundary of Jewish and Gentile)
- Warns man to go home, not to the village.
- The man obeys (apparently)

Parallels

- Matthew 14:13-21
- Luke 9:10-17
- John 6:1-15