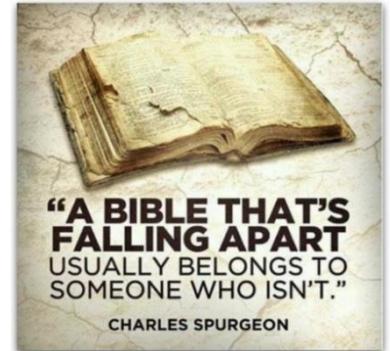




Beaches Baptist Church

Feb.25-Mar.3, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

JESUS- THE BREAD OF LIFE *Our powerlessness- His provision*

The Feeding of the 5000 is the only one of two of Jesus' miracles which is recorded in all four of the Gospels. In this week's reading I have made a rough attempt in sorting out the chronology of the miracle from the four accounts.

Monday

Matthew 14:13-14 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus heard it [of John the Baptist's beheading], He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

John 6:1-2 (NKJV)

1. After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

2. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

Reflect: Jesus had just heard that His cousin, John the Baptist, had been beheaded by Herod. Although fully God, He was also fully human and suffered grief like the rest of us. Yet there was no rest from the crowds who pursued Him relentlessly. It is amazing that despite His grief He felt compassion for the people. What lesson is there in this for me?

Tuesday

Mark 6:30-32 (NKJV)

30 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

Luke 9:10-11 (NKJV)

10 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

Reflect: The apostles had just returned from the mission to preach the Kingdom in all the towns and villages. They were physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually tired. Both Jesus and His disciples were probably exhausted at this point. When feeling like this- the best thing to do is to withdraw with Jesus.

Wednesday

Mark 6:33-35 (NKJV)

33 But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him.

34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

35 When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late.

John 6:3-6 (NKJV)

3. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

5. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"

6. But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

Reflect: The crowds followed them so they had no time to rest. It was in this context of lack of resources- emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, financial- that Jesus asks the disciples for more. Where do you turn when you're scraping the bottom of the barrel?

Thursday

John 6:7-9 (NKJV)

7. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

8. One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

9. "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Matthew 14:15-18 (NKJV)

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me."

Luke 9:12-15 (NKJV)

12 When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here."

13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people."

14 For there were about five thousand men. And He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty."

15 And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Mark 6:36-38 (NKJV)

36 "Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."

37 But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

Reflect: We all have our solutions for the problems of the world- but they are poor attempts to meet any real need. Only in the hands of Jesus can our offerings be used to make a difference.

Friday

Matthew 14:19 (NKJV)

19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

Mark 6:39 (NKJV)

39 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.

John 6:10 (NKJV)

10. Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Psalms 23:1-2 (GNB)

The Lord is my shepherd;

I have everything I need.

² He lets me rest in fields of green grass

and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

³ He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths,

as he has promised.

Reflect: Jesus had noticed that the people were like sheep without a shepherd. Only He, the LORD, could give them the shepherding they needed. Only He could feed them. Only He could restore their souls.

Saturday

Mark 6:40-41 (NKJV)

40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.

John 6:11 (NKJV)

11. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

Luke 9:16 (NKJV)

16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.

Reflect: How do we distribute the gifts God has given us? As we wish- or under the guidance of Jesus?

Sunday

Matthew 14:20-21 (NKJV)

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.

21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Mark 6:42-44 (NKJV)

42 So they all ate and were filled.

43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

Luke 9:17 (NKJV)

17 So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

John 6:12-15 (NKJV)

¹²So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." ¹³Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jesus Walks on the Sea

¹⁵Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Reflect: Jesus is all we need- He is enough. He is more than enough!