

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Dave explores the feeding of the 4,000 in Mark 8, comparing it to the earlier feeding of the 5,000. He explains that these two similar miracles have distinct purposes: the first feeding (with 12 baskets of leftovers) symbolized God's provision for the 12 tribes of Israel, while the second (with 7 baskets) represented God's complete provision for all nations. Both miracles demonstrate Jesus as the Bread of Life who offers compassion and abundance to everyone.

The sermon highlights how the disciples, despite witnessing the first miracle, still doubted Jesus' ability to feed the crowd a second time. Pastor Dave warns against focusing on the 'toppings' (benefits, programs, feelings) rather than the 'bread' (Jesus himself). He challenges listeners to decide if they're going to fully commit to Christ rather than just seeking what He can provide. The message concludes with a reminder that Jesus didn't accidentally 'spill' His blood but intentionally gave His life out of love, leading into communion.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to discuss Your Word, we thank You for revealing Yourself as the Bread of Life. Open our hearts to receive the nourishment that only You can provide. Help us to see beyond the temporary satisfactions of this world and recognize our deep need for You. May our discussion today deepen our understanding of Your compassion, Your power, and Your purpose in our lives. Guide our conversation and help each person here to hear what You specifically want to speak to them today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's your favorite type of bread, and what do you like to put on it?

Key Verses

1. Mark 8:1-3
2. Mark 8:11-12
3. John 6:26
4. John 6:47-48

Questions

1. In the sermon, Pastor Dave talks about the difference between the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000. What significance do you see in Jesus performing similar miracles for different groups of people?
2. The disciples counted what they had (seven loaves) but failed to count Jesus as their resource. In what areas of your life do you tend to focus on your limited resources rather than including Jesus in your calculations?

3. Pastor Dave mentioned that some people keep asking for signs from God even when He's already revealed Himself. Why do you think we sometimes struggle to recognize God's presence and provision in our lives?
4. How has God arranged 'divine intersections' in your life, bringing the right people at the right time like the story about Leah from Kenya?
5. What does it mean to you that Jesus is 'the Bread of Life'? How is this different from seeing Him as just a provider of blessings?
6. The sermon warns against being attracted to the 'toppings' (programs, feelings, benefits) rather than the 'bread' (Jesus Himself). What 'toppings' might distract you from focusing on Jesus?
7. Pastor Dave said, 'What you attract people with is what you will keep them with.' How might this principle apply to how we share our faith with others?
8. At the end of the sermon, Pastor Dave emphasized that Jesus didn't 'spill' His blood accidentally but gave His life intentionally. How does this perspective change how you view Christ's sacrifice?

Life Application

This week, take time to identify where you might be focusing on the 'toppings' rather than the 'bread' in your spiritual life. Choose one area where you've been seeking benefits from God rather than God Himself, and intentionally shift your focus. Each day, spend at least 5 minutes in prayer specifically thanking Jesus for being the Bread of Life and asking Him to satisfy your deepest hunger. Then, identify someone in your life who might be feeling disconnected or lonely, and reach out to them - be part of God's divine intersection in their life, just as He orchestrated the connection between Pastor Dave and Leah.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus is the Bread of Life who offers compassion and abundance to everyone, not just to certain groups of people.
2. We often count our limited resources but fail to count Jesus as our ultimate resource who can multiply what little we have.
3. Many people are attracted to the benefits Jesus provides (the 'toppings') rather than to Jesus Himself (the 'bread').
4. God orchestrates divine intersections in our lives, bringing the right people at the right time to meet our needs.
5. Jesus didn't accidentally spill His blood; He intentionally gave His life out of love for us.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Bread of Life that truly satisfies our deepest hunger. Forgive us for the times we've been more interested in Your gifts than in You. Help us to count You as our greatest resource and to trust in Your compassion and power to meet our needs. May we be drawn to You above all else, not just to the benefits You provide. Give us eyes to see the divine intersections You're creating in our lives, and use us to be Your hands and feet to others who are hungry for connection and community. As we go from here, remind us daily that You gave Your life intentionally out of love for us. May we respond with wholehearted commitment to You. In Your precious name we pray, amen.