

WEEK 14: MARK 8 - JESUS RELATES TO THE GENTILES & THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED

HIGH SCHOOL

GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 8:1-38

LESSON

Materials Needed: Orthodox Study Bible

Extended Learning Opportunities:

The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark pages 64-71

The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 117-136

GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 8

Read verses 1-9 and then discuss:

A few weeks ago, we read about Jesus feeding the 5,000. We learned that there were 5,000 men present, as well as, women and children too. Jesus fed everyone present by blessing five loaves of bread and two fish. Not only did He feed everyone, there were even twelve baskets of leftovers afterwards!

Another huge crowd had gathered around Jesus and listened to Him teach for three days. Saint Theophylact explains the the feeding of the 4,000 as follows -

“The Lord had already worked a similar miracle on a previous occasion, and now again He works a miracle, for good reason: the multitude had remained with Him for three days, and everyone’s supply of food was exhausted. He did not always perform miracles with food, lest it appear that the multitudes were following Him for the sake of food. He would not have worked this miracle, were it not for the anticipated danger of hunger among the multitude. See how the disciples are still without understanding, not yet having acquired faith in His power which they had seen in His previous miracles. But He does not scold them, thus teaching us also not to give a harsh rebuke to those who are ignorant, but to forgive them their lack of understanding. Consider this as well, that Christ desires to send no one away hungry, but He wants all to feast sumptuously from His gifts, especially all those who have remained with Him for three days, that is who have been baptized. Baptism is called ‘illumination’, and it is performed by means of three immersions;

therefore those who stayed with the Lord “three days” signify those who have been illumined by baptism. He takes seven loaves, by which I mean the things of the Spirit, for the number seven is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit perfects and completes all things, and in the number seven both our life and this age are completed. The newly illumined eat and are satisfied, and they leave the leftover pieces remaining, for there the multitude numbered five thousand, signifying those who are enslaved to the five senses; and this is why they are not able to eat much, but were satisfied by a little, leaving much left over. But here there are seven baskets, and fewer leftovers, because there are four thousand men, signifying those whose spiritual capacity has been enlarged by their practice of the four virtues, and who therefore can digest more and leave less. What they could not eat is contained by the seven baskets, signifying those things which are the most spiritual and profound. We should also learn from the literal account that we ought to stop eating when we have satisfied our need, and not look for anything more. See how the multitude did not take for themselves the leftovers from the loaves after they had eaten and were satisfied. Instead, the disciples gathered up the remainder, just as they had done in the previous miracle with the five loaves. Likewise we ought to satisfy our hunger in moderation.” (Pages 64-65)

REVIEW:

- How did Jesus treat the disciples after they had seen Him miraculously feed thousands of people again with a few small fish and seven loaves of bread? Was He short and frustrated with them since this was the second time they had seen Him miraculously feed a huge crowd of people or was He patient and loving towards them?
- How should we treat our parents, brothers, sisters, or friends when they don't fully understand how we're feeling or what's going on with us today? Should we be frustrated with them or show them patience? Is this an easy or hard thing to do? Why?
- Saint Theophylact is explaining to us that as we mature, we are able to understand more, but this also depends on our willingness to *want* to learn and to seek God. What are some ways that you can continue to seek God and make Him part of your life after you leave this classroom today?

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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“The Lord had already worked a similar miracle on a previous occasion, and now again He works a miracle, for good reason: the multitude had remained with Him for three days, and everyone’s supply of food was exhausted. He did not always perform miracles with food, lest it appear that the multitudes were following Him for the sake of food. He would not have worked this miracle, were it not for the anticipated danger of hunger among the multitude.”

Read verses 10-21:

The disciples were still having difficulty understanding that Jesus was the Messiah, the One who came to save everyone. Instead of being short or frustrated with them, Jesus was patient with all of them. We should always be patient and kind with people who don’t understand our situation. He also reminded them what happened when He miraculously

fed the 5,000 and that the teachings of the Pharisees was wrong. (*"beware of the leaven of the Pharisees"*)

Read verses 22-26:

Find Bethsaida on the map. Saint Mark wants to make sure we don't forget the miracles of Jesus! As Jesus is once again traveling, He heals a blind man along the way. Can you imagine not being able to see anything at all and then suddenly be able to see? Wouldn't you be excited to tell everyone around you what happened? All these people couldn't help but tell others! And as people learned about Jesus, they did everything they could to bring those that needed help to Him too.

Read verses 27-30:

Find Caesarea Philippi on your map. They had a lot of time to talk while they were traveling. Jesus provided the opportunity for His disciples to learn that He is not John the Baptist, Elijah, or a prophet like others believe. St. Peter tells Jesus that, "You are the Christ." Jesus is the one who has come to save us all.

Read verses 31-38:

Jesus is telling us that if we want to follow Him, we need to stop trying to go after what we want, and instead deal with the situations in our lives with love and virtue (goodness). Oftentimes, we are given situations in our lives to help us. Your parents have you do schoolwork because it will help prepare you for being an adult. It's not always fun, but we do it because it will help us. The same is true for other situations in our life as well. If we have a fight with someone, we are given the opportunity to learn to work through our disagreement, apologize, and forgive each other. During all these situations, we always need to pray to God to help us.

REVIEW:

- Why were there 4,000 people gathered around Jesus? (They wanted to learn from Him!)
- Why did Jesus feed the 4,000? (They had been with Him for 3 days. They had eaten all the food they had brought with them and there weren't any stores or restaurants nearby to feed them. Jesus had compassion on them.)
- Who is Jesus? (The Christ)

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3RD - 4TH GRADE

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Another huge crowd had gathered around Jesus and listened to Him teach for three days. The people had run out of food and Jesus had compassion on them. Again, Jesus blessed the seven loaves of bread they had on them and the few fish. By doing so, He fed thousands of people.

Jesus did not often miraculously feed those around Him because He did not want people believing that they were seeking Him out just for food. They were searching for Him because He is the Son of God.

Read verses 10-21:

The disciples were still having difficulty understanding that Jesus was the Messiah, the One who came to save everyone. Instead of being short or frustrated with them, Jesus was patient with all of them. We should always be patient and kind with people who don't understand our situation. He also reminded them what happened when He miraculously

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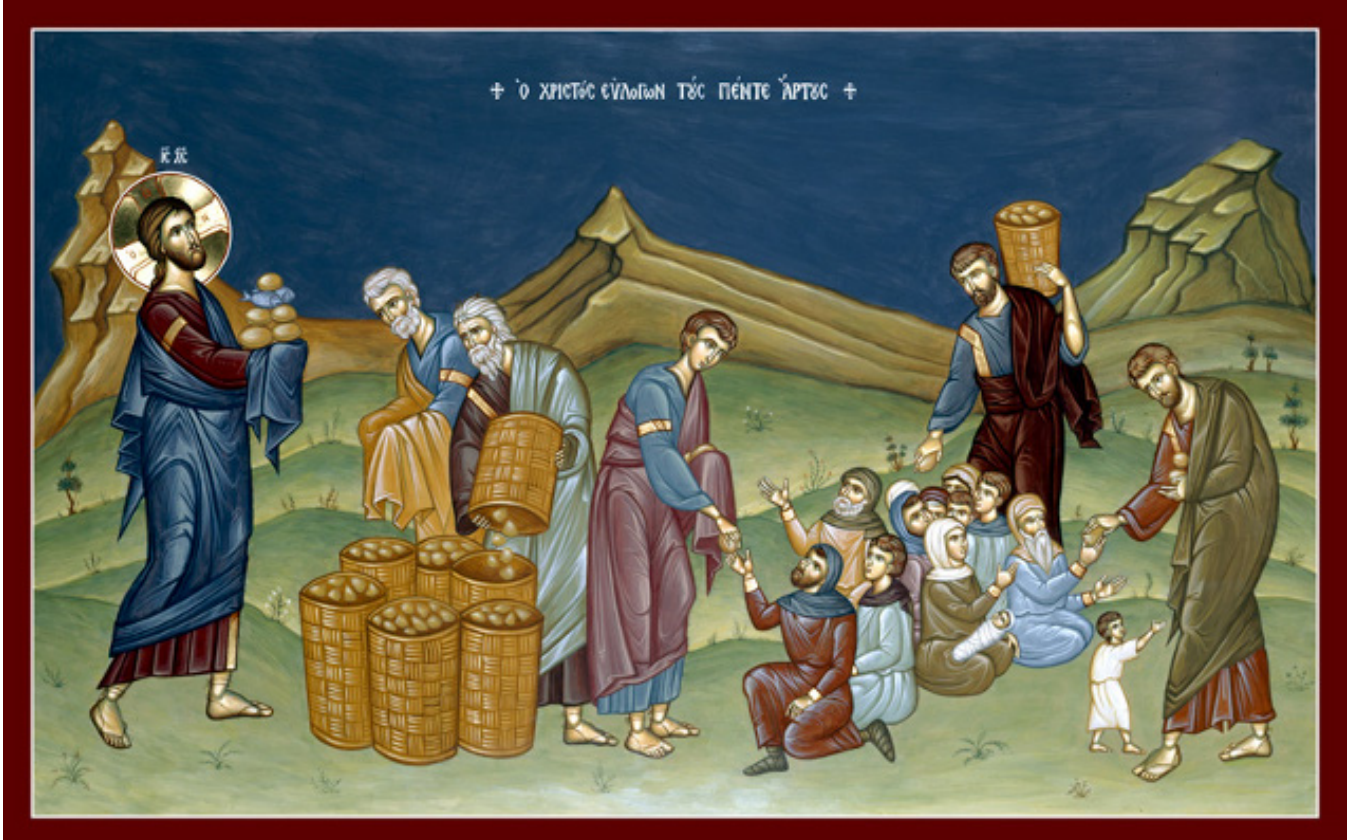
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REVIEW:

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- Who is Jesus? (The Christ)



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1ST - 2ND GRADE

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GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 8

1. Summarize and tell the story of the Feeding the 4,000 from Mark 8:1-10:

In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar." Then His disciples answered Him, "How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?" He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven." So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, immediately got into the boat with His disciples, and came to the region of Dalmanutha.

2. Show students the icons. Where is Jesus? Where is the crowd of people in both icons? Where is the bread and fish? Where are the disciples?
3. Ask students to re-tell the story using the felt Bible characters on the flannel board.





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PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

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