

Cell Notes 9 July 2017: Feeding of 4000 (Mark 8:1-13)

Sunday's Bible passage was **Mark 8:1-13** – preacher's notes attached. Also compare **Matthew 5:13**. Questions to discuss:

- 1) Imagine you were in the crowd who ate miraculously that day. How would that experience change your outlook on life?
- 2) The feeding of the 5000 took place in Jewish territory. This (very similar) miracle took place in Gentile territory. What does that say to you about God and his Kingdom?
- 3) 'God's people are supposed to be like the fertiliser in society making good things grow – or like manure; we do a lot of good spread about, but heaped up in one place for too long, it's not so pleasant!' How are we doing this practically in our lives?
- 4) 'Being the salt of the earth just means God's people dispersed throughout society, loving people'. What can you do differently this week in the light of that statement?

Sermon notes

- Will reveal/confess my greatest/most frequently repented sin... later!
- To me part of 3-part series (5000 – Water walking – 4000)... not to you!
- Simple story (hungry crowd, 7 loaves etc.) – alongside Sermon on Mount
- Miracles are illustrations/demonstrations/signs of Jesus' mission/message
- Healings/deliverances = signs of the Kingdom
- 'Nature miracles' = illustrations of Kingdom lifestyle...
- Sermon on Mount... in *The Message* (EP = Scholar, Pastor, Poet)
- 3 ways this illustrates Jesus' teaching on Kingdom lifestyle:

1) Salt and Light (Advanced level!)

- Martyn Percy @ Clergy Conference: Why 4000? Not-so-good repeat?!
- Geography: 5000 = NW (Bethsaida – Jewish); 4000 = SE (Decapolis – Gentile)
- Kingdom/Good News is for everyone, not just Jews/Church... bigger than
- *Salt and light* (in *Message*). Preserves, flavours... fertilises?! (MP again)

- Christians like manure! Keep spreading ourselves through society
- Familiar list (Mini Fete, Toddlers, MC, SPs, Soup, KFC, Councillors, Governors, Choirs etc.)... is a good list! Christians in society loving people!

2) Daily Bread (Straightforward!)

- Lord's Prayer – what is third line? *Give us today our daily bread.*
- Miracle = a dramatic illustration of God providing for our needs!
- Not just physical... Bread of life (John 6)... Communion = regular enactment.
- My current/most frequently returned to template (keeps it fresh)

3) Trust God (Straightforward!)

- Re-cap last week: Lesson of the loaves: whatever circumstances/needs... *one way or other, sooner or later, with God, it will be OK!* Comedy not tragedy.
- Surrendered control + increased trust = reduced stress!
- My worst/frequent sin: worry = unbelief/lack of trust in a good, good God!
- Trying not to mention so often (beginning to irritate!) but gives others hope
- Dilemma: some of us are more prone to anxiety (background, life history), and beating yourself up doesn't help... but it's still a scandal!
- Read *Birds and Flowers* from *Message*