

This Is an Isolated Spot

Mark 8:1-21

by Don Falkos

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A large crowd had been with Jesus for three days and had run out of food. Jesus said to his disciples, "If I send these people home without feeding them, they'll collapse along the way. Some of them have traveled a long way to be here."

The disciples replied, "This is an isolated spot. There's no place we can get enough bread for all these people."

"How much do you have?"

"Seven loaves of bread and a few small fish,"

There were about four thousand men there. Jesus had everyone sit down. He took the bread and the fish and gave thanks to God. The disciples distributed the food among the people, all of whom ate their fill. Afterwards Jesus' disciples picked up seven baskets of leftovers.

Jesus sent the people away. Then he and his disciples got into a boat and sailed across to the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee. Some Pharisees demanded a miraculous sign from Jesus, who said, "No sign will be given." They immediately got back in the boat and crossed again to the other side, heading for Bethsaida.

Jesus tried to warn his disciples about the corruption around them, "Be on your guard against the 'yeast' of the Pharisees and the 'yeast' of Herod." They misunderstood and thought Jesus was chastising them because they had forgotten to bring bread.

Then Jesus did chastise them, "Why are you worried about having no bread? You have eyes – can't you see? You have ears – can't you hear? Have you forgotten? When I broke five loaves for five thousand, there were twelve baskets of leftovers. When I broke seven loaves for four thousand, there were seven baskets of leftovers. Do you still not understand?"