

Feeding Four Thousand

Matthew 15:29 – 16:12

by Don Falkos

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Jesus traveled along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, went up on a mountainside, and sat down. Crowds came to him and he healed the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others. The people praised God. Then he said to his disciples, "These people have been with me for three days. We can't send them away hungry. Feed them."

The disciples replied, "Where would we get enough food for all these people? All we have is seven loaves of bread, and a few small fish."

Jesus had everyone sit down. He took the bread and fish and gave thanks to God. The food was distributed among the people, all four thousand of whom ate their fill. Afterwards the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftovers. Jesus sent the people home and sailed to Magdala.

Some Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus for a miraculous sign to prove his heavenly authority. He replied, "You can predict the weather by the signs you see in the sky. But you don't understand the signs of the times. The only sign I will give is that of the prophet Jonah."

Jesus and his disciples took a boat across to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When they got there Jesus warned them, "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

The disciples thought Jesus was chastising them because they had forgotten to bring any bread with them. Jesus reminded them about feeding five thousand with five loaves of bread and four thousand with seven loaves of bread. Finally the disciples understood that Jesus wasn't warning them about the yeast in bread, but about the deceptive teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.