



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Forgotten Bread

**Focus Verses:** Mark 8:6-9 - <sup>6</sup>And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. <sup>7</sup>And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. <sup>8</sup>So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. <sup>9</sup>And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.

**Lesson Text:** Mark 8:1-9, 14-21

**Truth About God:** Jesus shows compassion through the miracles He works.

**Truth For My Life:** I will allow the miracles Jesus has worked to frame my faith for future miracles.

The disciples seemed to have forgotten Jesus' earlier miracle in Mark 6:32-44. Jesus was concerned about the well-being of the many who had gathered, and if He sent the crowd away now, some would faint from hunger along the way home. Regretfully, the disciples responded in much the same way as in Mark 6 similar situation. The crowd was too large for their limited resources. Jesus asked the disciples: "How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven" (Mark 8:5). Unfazed, Jesus commanded the people to sit as He prepared to feed the crowd. The outcome was identical: the multitude, four thousand this time, ate until they were satisfied. The disciples again gathered the fragments remaining, and they filled seven large baskets with leftovers. Jesus was not only concerned about their spiritual needs, but also their physical hunger.

How quickly we forget the miracles of God and the incredible stories of His work among believers. Before we judge others for their forgetfulness, we would do well to examine our own lapse of faith and short-term memory of answered prayers. The further removed we are from a miracle, the dimmer our memory grows. The details are lost and the experience fades in our minds. If we are not careful to rehearse the stories of God's provision, healing, or deliverance, we may lose the ability to recall them. Take time to write down the details of your personal Pentecostal experience. Record those noteworthy moments to remind yourselves and to inform those who will follow.

The disciples also did not understand Jesus' warning concerning the leaven of the Pharisees. He wasn't hinting at hunger; He was warning them against the hypocrisy of the self-righteousness of those who refused to acknowledge Him as the Messiah. The same people became a hindrance to others who desperately needed Him.

It was not about the bread, and it was not about the baskets. Jesus could make bread as easily as He provided manna in the wilderness. It was more about the Bread of Heaven coming down to humanity; Jesus had come to give life. He announced: "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world*" (John 6:51).

We are in good company with the disciples. They were not heroes or super-Christians. They were fallible and often did not get what Jesus wanted them to know. The more we see them as humans, the more we can appreciate God's patience with us and our mistakes. Jesus did not dismiss any of the disciples. He continued teaching them and giving them more chances to get it right, and He will do the same for us. As our experience grows, the lessons make more sense, and their application makes the truths memorable. Faith from past answers to prayer will give us confidence for future miracles. The more we acknowledge God's healing in the past, the greater our faith grows for future healing. We cannot forget God's promises or His mighty acts. Every miracle adds substance to our expectation: "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1).

In times of adversity, trouble, disease, sickness, or even death, we have an assurance of God's abiding presence. Our best exercise is to simply look back over the years to our own experiences and others' testimonies of God's amazing works in our lives. Let us learn the lesson from these testimonies, and continue to share the blessings of God's provision.

**So, people of God allow the miracles Jesus worked in your life to frame your faith for future miracles!**