

# YOU NEED NEVER GO HUNGRY

## (Sermon Summary)

### **Reading: Mark 6:30-44.**

This is another spectacular event in the ministry of the Lord Jesus, like the healing of the paralysed man we looked at the other week. Again, this is a miracle for it goes against the established, God-given laws of nature. But God is able to suspend those laws when He so chooses. It does not lie within the properties of what bread and fish are to be able to multiply themselves.

It is a mistake that some Christians make to expect such miraculous provision today. These special events clustered around the Lord Jesus Christ to mark Him out as special and different.

#### **1. Crowds wherever He went.**

The location of this miracle started out as being a deserted place but that was not for long. The people hurried out to see Him and, because this was all so short notice, they did not have time to prepare any food for themselves. This was how distinctive and impressive a Person the Lord was that people would drop everything and go to see Him. None would leave His presence unmoved, even if they were actually more hardened in their opposition to Him. We learn from Luke 9:11 that He healed people on this occasion. This was so typical of every time the Lord ministered. People would be brought on beds but would go home walking. People would beg just to be able to touch the hem of His garment and, as many did, were healed.

The Lord was noted for His compassion toward people, as came to the fore on this occasion too. He had great power, but that power was allied to great compassion. He showed no discrimination or prejudice toward any group of people. And when the people were before Him He spoke the truth to them, often in parables. The crowd that assembled here in this deserted place was a sympathetic crowd but, by now, a hungry crowd too.

#### **2. Looking for solutions in wrong places.**

From verses 35 and 36 we see that the disciples did not think that there was a solution to the problem of feeding the crowd that was available to hand. All they could think was that there was a solution in the neighbouring villages, not that the Lord might be able to

do something in this situation. It was really something of an insult to His Person and His power that He would not be thought to have anything He contribute to the problem.

In v37 it is as though the disciples are faced up with their own inadequacy. How could they help in any way? We might react petulantly when we feel the Lord has brought us into a difficult situation to which we have no obvious answer. People mistakenly think that they have answers if they go inside themselves and find some inner peace. Great philosophers and their systems of thought try to answer the deeper questions of life but are not able to satisfy with the answers that they supply. Sometimes we outsource our thinking to other people and expect them to have all the answers for us.

Really the 'cupboard was empty' in respect of their own resources and answers. They should have expected more from the Lord Jesus and the help that He would be able to give.

### **3. Do what He says.**

When we are at the end of our own resources, we are ready then to listen to what He has to say to us. The disciples do what they are told and tell the people to sit down. The people are helpless, and the disciples are helpless, but the Lord is very much in control of the situation.

The Lord's insights, thoughts and understanding are always the best. We have to receive from Him. We cannot make demands of Him or tell Him what He has to do. The food proceeds from His hands. Though the raw materials are to hand, it needs the Lord to add His power. In His hands, words and truth becoming living and active. His words are not empty promises. He stands alone in providing these helps to His people. One day He will have to stand very much alone when He dies on the cross. It will be His own body that is broken up to feed His people. He will surrender up His perfections and give Himself over to the death of the cross. He will pray to the Father then on our behalf.

It is for us then to reflect upon our spiritual poverty, our misuse of religion, our selfishness, our efforts to gain merit. It will be for us to sit and reflect on the vanity of our pursuit of lust. In place of these things, He gives substance to our lives, aims and purposes to follow. He sets before us the goal of personal holiness.

### **4. None go hungry.**

Verse 42 tells us how many leftovers there are. If they had had the appetite there was even more to eat, had they have needed it. The Lord is able to feed all His people. His divine resources enable Him to provide for millions of people all at the same time. This is the true God who supplies true food to us. He it is who searches our hearts, unlocks eternity and is our true Friend on our pilgrimage to glory.