

## THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

### 6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world against unbelief, disbelief, false belief, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that over comes the world, Part 6E(2)

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**Introduction:** What is one of the essential human needs for life that can be the most basic or common yet also the most refined and special? The answer is food. Yes, by food we sustain life and by food we celebrate life. Think about it for a moment, how much of our life revolves around food...

Food is an obvious theme throughout the Bible used by God to reveal our need for spiritual life, i.e. if we need food to live for our physical body, how much more do we need spiritual food for our soul!

Can you remember some Bible stories where food is used to reveal theological truths? Remember for example the eating of the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil revealing original sin or the invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb revealing the consummation of salvation. So from the beginning of the Bible to the end of the Bible and also consciously informing all people everywhere of the need greater than food for the body, the Bible sanctifies an irrepressible analogy of human dependence on the Creator as Savior—food necessary for the body and the body's natural use of food witness to immortality because God defines existence.

Mark's record of Jesus' miracle feeding the multitude of 5,000 plus is a faith-story about God's way of salvation.

### Chapter 6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world is against unbelief, disbelief, false beliefs, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world.

**vv. 30-52**, Weak belief from not keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings:

- **vv. 30-32**, the Apostles return and report to Jesus about their Gospel mission but need a retreat from the never-ending needs of people, they too need food for body and soul.  
*\*While the Christian Gospel ministry has a formal order under the authority of Christ, it must be remembered that the supernatural power of the Gospel is not limited to or conveyed by the external means only...*
- **vv. 33-36**, Jesus recognizes and validates the need for retreat from public ministry for a time of relaxation, reflection, and restoring body, mind and spirit, but even this is subject to the providence of God fulfilling the great commandment—love God first and our neighbor as our self.  
*\*While the Christian Gospel ministry has Biblically identified qualifications which have developed into academic/educational professional degree programs, it must be remembered that the source of the Gospel is the person of Jesus Christ revealed to be the Good Shephard and Savior...*
  - ✓ **vv. 33-34, cf. vv. 14-15**, Jesus' name was becoming well known and associated with its O.T. origin "Joshua"[Heb. Yeshua=YAHWEH is salvation] and Jesus quotes the Scriptures for this purpose,

*“Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: ‘Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.’ And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him....’”* Numbers 27:15-18

*\*This is an obvious example of keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings comparing and interpreting Scripture with Scripture.*

- ✓ The Shepherd motif used throughout the Bible by God to reveal His saving grace culminates in Jesus the Good Shepherd who came to save His sheep and give shepherd-pastors to feed His sheep, cf. Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34, et al. // John 21:15-19; Hebrews 13:20; Ephesians 4:11 [Gk. *π ο ι μ η ν* /*poy-mane*' of uncertain affinity; a *shepherd* (literally or figuratively): - shepherd, pastor.] ;

1 Peter 2:25, 5:1-4, et al.

*\*Faithful Gospel Shepherds must feed Jesus' sheep with the spiritual food Jesus provides, i.e. the priority of faith-food over felt-needs...*

- ✓ **v. 34b**, Jesus provided for the multitude in a deserted place first with prophetic preaching greater than the manna and prophetic word, including the Law of God, given to the O.T. Israelites through Moses (cf. Deut. 5:1-21; St. John 6)...

Jesus makes it obvious that the faith-food He gives is Himself personally as the source of salvation-life and so faith-food must also be “eaten” by faith, e.g. physical food for the body, faith-food for the soul, cf. St. John 6:22-70, esp. v. 63, Jesus said, “*‘It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.’*”

Jesus gives the infallible commentary on the purpose and meaning of this miraculous feeding of the multitude, cf. St. John 6.

*\*Like Jesus' miraculously feeding the multitude was not an end in itself, the external means and activities of the Gospel ministry are not an end in themselves, to give physical, mental and emotional benefits to people are only lasting supernatural Gospel benefits when confessed by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit to be from the grace of God in Jesus Christ, cf. John 6:68.*

- ✓ **vv. 35-36**, The Apostles were not unfeeling over the needs of the multitude, but were also conflicted from their own felt-needs and human limitations (cf. vv. 30-31)...

*\*One of the greatest challenges to faithfully ministering the Gospel is dealing with human inadequacies and personal insufficiency faced with the Christian theology of eternal destiny, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

**The Gospel conflict in this sinful world is against unbelief, disbelief, false beliefs, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world—keeping Christ-centered Scripture testimonies and teachings.**

