

DAILY GRACE

Which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matt. 7:9-11)

Isn't it wonderful how God tells us to bring our requests to him — big or small? This truth hit home for me during a difficult season. From his prison cell, my newly believing, younger brother with mental limitations prayed that God would help my parents find his runaway dog.

I have to admit that I thought, "God has got bigger problems to deal with!" But my father, who still wanted to find ways to show love to his wayward son, went to the parking lot where "ol' Red" had run away the week before.

After he'd called out Red's name several times with no response, my father said, "This is silly. What am I doing?" Then, as he turned to walk back to the car, there was ol' Red, wagging his tail!

Jesus promised, "Your Father who is in heaven [will] give good things to those who ask him." That's not a promise to answer every whim but to give what is best for our souls. And there is no qualification on the significance of the gift — or of the requester. God will simply provide what is best for our eternal care, even to wayward children who ask. So, make your requests known to God. He cares. He's listening.

Prayer:

Father, as I come to you in prayer today, help me to realize that you delight in giving good gifts to your children. Help me not to put limits on what you can do or how much you care because of my wayward heart.

Bryan Chapell



August 14, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Compassionate Shepherd



If the only thing you have to offer is a broken heart, you offer a broken heart. So in a time of grief, the recognition that this is material for sacrifice has been a very great strength for me. Realizing that nothing I have, nothing I am will be refused on the part of Christ I simply give it to Him as the little boy gave Jesus his five loaves and two fishes—with the same feeling of the disciples when they said, "What is the good of that for such a crowd?" Naturally in almost anything I offer to Christ, my reaction would be, "What is the good of that?" The point is, the use He makes of it is His blessing. —Elliot

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "Great Things" Myrin/Wickham

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q/A #1

Hymn of Affirmation

"Impossible Things". Brown/McClarney/Tomlin/Cash

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal -----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly: Psalm 139:23-24

Public Confession: Adapted from Luke 11:37-52

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: 1 Timothy 1:15

Song of Renewal: "Mercy". Hall/Levine/DeJong/Toga

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:30-44 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Compassionate Shepherd"

Song of Communion

"We Hunger and Thirst". Romanacce/Couch/Fournier

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"How Great is Our God". Tomlin/Reeves/Cash

Benediction

*The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

The disciples obeyed Jesus. They gave Him the loaves and fish, then had the people sit down on the grass. Then Jesus looked to heaven and prayed a simple prayer.

Satisfied

Everybody ate . . . the crackers who came from the grain that was never planted, and the fish that came from the fish that never swam because they never lived.

Precisely Twelve Baskets

The precision of it, the complexity of it is consistent with God's providence, how He uses an infinite number of contingent things and always achieves His perfect precise end. This is our Lord who orders the whole universe with perfect precision.

Insights

The Lord's Table

The vocabulary in this miracle passage had a purposeful resemblance with that used at the Lord's Table in Mark 14, where many virtually identical terms and phrases were used. The feeding of the 5,000 was meant to instruct us as to the meaning of Communion.

The cup and the bread tell us that Christ's life was given as an atonement for our sins. It is from his death and resurrection that we have life.

The feeding of the 5,000 also tells us that he truly feels for us with *compassionate mercy*.

He *omnipotently provides* for us through his creative power.

He *fully satisfies* us with his bread.

He calls us to give what we have to him, that he might share the Bread of Life with the multitudes who are like sheep without a shepherd.³

A God who can do that can do anything!

Jesus with a word multiplied the molecular structure of those humble barley cakes and pickled fish! It is this *creation power* that he brings to our lives. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

¹Sproul, R. C. (2011). Mark (First Edition, p. 139). Reformation Trust.

²Hughes, R. K. (1989). Mark: Jesus, servant and savior (Vol. 1, pp. 148-149). Crossway Books.

³Hughes, R. K. (1989). Mark: Jesus, servant and savior (Vol. 1, p. 153). Crossway Books.

Jesus felt this in the pit of his stomach, so deep was his tender compassion. He saw the thousands as shepherdless sheep, defenseless, lost, unable even to feed themselves. "So he began teaching them many things." More exactly, he taught them at great length.²

Sheep without a Shepherd will die.

Jesus realized they had no teacher. They had no one to feed them, no one to lead them to water, no one to clean them, no one to protect them and shelter them, no one to care for them.

Jesus has tender compassion for you

Regardless of whether you are a believer or not, if you cannot imagine that Jesus has tender compassion for you, you simply do not know what he is like.

The Feeding of the Sheep

Mark 6:35–38 (ESV)

And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."

He had been feeding them spiritual food; now He suggested that the disciples give the people physical food. They were flabbergasted: The main problem the disciples saw was the cost of providing for all the people who had gathered to hear Jesus. They estimated they would need to spend two hundred denarii. A denarius was the equivalent of a day's wage for a laborer; two hundred was an appreciable portion of a yearly salary. So, the disciples focused on the obstacles.

The small amount of food was no obstacle for Jesus

Mark 6:39–44 (ESV)

Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 16 6:00 P.M. Youth and Young Adults meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study, and games

Sunday, August 21 6:15–7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

Sunday, August 28 5:00 P.M. Baptism Service
at the home of Dave and Lisa Frame; followed by supper
Brochures are available at the Welcome Table.

Saturday, September 3 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner
at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Sunday, September 25 10:30 A.M. David Nelson and associates will be with us for the worship service.

Saturday, November 12 Ladies Event
Verna Bowman speaking: Time and Place TBD

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving near the end of this year.



CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray as they lead "Art of Parenting" at their church this fall.

Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson

We praise God for David's safe return home. Please pray for the seeds planted in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Uganda to multiply. Ask God for continued protection, strength, and encouragement for our CCI teachers, trainers, coordinators, and National Directors as they serve the churches in these areas.

Pro-Life Prayer Guide **Fathers in Pregnancy Crisis**

A man who receives word that he is the father of a preborn child may experience many emotions and thoughts. Whether he is fearful of the future, anxious about how to respond to the news, or worried about what the mother will choose, this man needs to know he is loved and that his child is designed by a loving God. Pray these men will have wisdom and boldness to choose life. Ask God to send men into their lives who will model fatherhood and support them in this process. Pray they will experience the peace that only comes from Christ.

Prayer/Praise. August 14, 2022

- Pray for Steve Simons' cousin, Dave, whose wife passed away this week. Pray for God's peace, strength, and comfort for their family.
- Pray for Rindy and Noah Lee, who developed Covid symptoms. Praise that Noah is feeling better, but Rindy's symptoms continued. Pray for a quick recovery.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Pray for Ernest, co-worker of Steve Simons, whose wife passed away. Pray for God to give wisdom and direction for Ernest and his child's future.
- Pray for Steve's brother John's mother-in-law, who had a nasty fall and is in Paoli Memorial Hospital. Pray for her healing.
- Pray for Emelia, the 6-year-old daughter of Barb Hunter's friend, Lindsey. Emelia fell off monkey bars at the park and broke her elbow. Pray for quick healing.
- Pray for Joie Horner's friend, Cheryl, who lost her husband in an accident while cutting down trees. Pray for God's continued strength, comfort, and peace for Cheryl and her family.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who will be starting a 5-day radiation treatment program for one month beginning on September 19th. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, who has been going through multiple surgeries due to burns from his accident. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Praise that Leah is progressing but still has a long journey ahead of her..
- Praise that Terry Cecchetelli's daughter and her husband are meeting with their pastor for counseling.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfenioug, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Praise that Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer's husband, is home from the hospital and doing well.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

The Compassionate Shepherd

Mark 6:30–44

Introduction

Mark presents two consecutive narratives that revolve around dramatic feasts. The first was hosted by Herod Antipas. The second was hosted by Jesus. At the first feast, only the nobles and the elite of Galilee were invited. At the second feast, the people of the land, the commoners, gathered to be fed by the provisions set forth by Jesus. At the first feast, the food was prepared by gourmet chefs. At the second feast, it was prepared by the hand of the Messiah. At the first feast, the entertainment was exotic dancing. At the second feast, the first item on the agenda was the exposition of the truth of God by the Son of God. Finally, the climax of the first feast was the heartless execution of a man of God. At the second feast, the dominant theme was the compassion of the Son of God for people who were like sheep without a shepherd.¹

The twelve and their Trial Mission

Mark 6:30–33 (ESV)

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

The disciples came back to Jesus and told Him all about their various journeys in pairs, the things they had taught and done. Jesus' response was compassionate: He urged them to come with Him to a place of solitude and to rest for a while, for there was much activity around Him, and the disciples were kept so busy they could not even find time to eat.

Sheep without a Shepherd

Mark 6:34 (ESV)

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.