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Have you ever done something that occupied your undivided attention for so long, that you lost track of time and realized that you haven't eaten all day? I don't know about you, but my stomach never lets me forget that I missed a meal!

But these Gentile crowds that followed Jesus were different. Following Jesus out into a desolate, they listened to Jesus preach and teach for THREE WHOLE DAYS! And they had nothing to eat! Imagine going for that long without something to eat! They were so enthusiastic about hearing the Son of God preach, that they completely lost track of time and ignored their basic bodily needs!

They took seriously what Jesus preached on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:33 - **"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and [things like what you will eat, drink, and wear] will be added to you."**

These crowds were crazy about Jesus - in Mark 1:45, Mark describes how Jesus couldn't even enter a town without crowds gathering in on him. Everyone wanted to see what miracle he would do next or hear what divine teaching would effortlessly pour out of His mouth. They craved this divine teaching so much that after three days of hearing His preaching, they didn't go back home to get something to eat. They stayed. Food was insignificant to them. Because heaven was right in front of them, speaking to them.

When compared to us and the things that compete for our time, attention, and desires - the kids sports on Sundays, the NFL kickoffs at 12:00, skipping Bible study so that line at Cracker Barrel doesn't get too long, or that "slow" Sunday morning when we stuff bacon and pancakes in our face - it doesn't seem we regard our Savior with the same kind of enthusiasm and excitement. And even when in church, our mind is plagued by Satan to distract us from realizing that heaven is right in front of us, speaking and feeding us.

Seeing the hungry crowds, Jesus has compassion - 'splachnizomai' in the Greek. This word describes the literally gut-wrenching concern that Jesus felt in the pit of His stomach. And it's this crowd and their lack of bodily provisions which evokes such an action from our Savior. Jesus had compassion on them because He saw their faith - they prioritized Jesus teaching and preaching over their stomachs! Not only their stomachs, but also I'm sure they didn't ask their bosses for three days' vacation.

Jesus had strong compassionate feelings towards this needy crowd of folks, because if He just sent them home with no food, then they wouldn't have made it home! They would've fainted in the wilderness, because they were in a desolate place, far away from their home.

Now, Jesus already had in mind that He would miraculously feed this Gentile crowd of 4,000, just like He did for the Jewish crowd of 5,000 in Mark 6:30. But Jesus poses the problem of the crowd's hunger to His disciples in order to test them.

But instead of saying, "Lord you're the bread of life! You are the almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You've worked miracles to heal diseases, cure the blind, and raise people from the dead, surely you can take care of this little hunger problem!" Or, they should've said - "Well, you've fed 5,000 men before, can't you take care of this smaller crowd? It's only 4,000 Jesus!"

But they failed to recognize Jesus' power to provide for this crowd's bodily needs.

Maybe there have been times you didn't trust God to take care of your bodily needs. Maybe there have been times when God tested your faith in Him, to see what you believe He provides in your life, and you failed to pass the test. Don't worry, the disciples didn't pass the test either. It just goes to show that even though we haven't lost faith in Jesus, there's still a lot more we can learn about Him.

For example, we can learn about His compassionate power. Even though Jesus only had two fish and 7 loaves, he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to His disciples to give out to the people. Suddenly, there wasn't just 7 loaves and 2 fish, but so much food that they had leftovers! Four thousand people ate and were satisfied! No one went away hungry! No one went away wishing they had more.

They had true satisfaction. Not only were they satisfied and filled with food, but they were filled and satisfied from the Word of God! I mean, they just had an abundance of God's Word - they were there with Him for THREE WHOLE DAYS! And they received everything that God could give them for their bodies and souls.

That's what Jesus does - He makes you realize the insignificance of anything else in life except Himself. But then He goes around and gives to you what you need, puts His blessing on it, and leaves you satisfied - not wanting - but completely filled!