

Grace in a Common Situation: Luke 9

Our look at Luke's illustration of our Lord's grace and forgiveness takes us to the ninth chapter of that Gospel. Throughout the eighth chapter, several things have happened:

Luke 9:10-17

When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹ But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He *began* speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing. ¹² Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place." ¹³ But He said to them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down *to eat* in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ They did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶ Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke *them*, and kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before the people. ¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets *full*.

- Multiple demons were cast out of Mary Magdalene (8:2)
- Storm on the sea is calmed (8:22-25)
- Legion of demons cast out of Gentile and put into pigs (8:26-39)
- Woman with issue of blood is healed (8:43-48)
- Jairus' daughter is raised from the dead (8:49-56)

What is Luke showing us about Jesus?

- A. The ninth chapter opens with the disciples being sent out on the limited commission (9:1-6) - we don't know how much time this took

What two significant things make this special?

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B. The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Textual Thoughts:

- this miracle is found in all four gospels

One of the few miracles that affected the entire audience

One of the longest lasting miracles (Mk 6:41)

- Matthew reports that John had just been executed (14:12-13)

What impact and parallels would that have to Jesus?

1. Jesus tells the disciples to feed the crowd
He said this as a "test" (Jn 6:6)

What three obstacles did the apostles face with this task?



Ken Gire: "Miracles are the common currency of Heaven. Feeding of the 5,00 was just a little loose change spilling from a hole in Heaven's pocket."

How is this miracle different from turning water to wine?



C. Grace is not limited to the subject of forgiveness and salvation.

1. Grace stands upon the shoulders of compassion
2. Many of Jesus' miracles involve _____
 - This miracle doesn't fit that description
3. This miracle did not fall into the realm of the _____ (woman with issue of blood; lepers; blind)
 - the people could have gone home and eaten later.
4. This miracle did not involve life _____ events (crippled walking; demons removed; lepers cured)
 - the people would be hungry again the next day
 - Jesus did not take away hunger permanently

Grace (Favor) Take-a-ways

- Grace doesn't always involve _____ things
- Grace doesn't always involve _____ things. It can be little things, even common things.
- Grace can be for just a _____ in time
- Grace can be doing what others could _____ (but they didn't)
- Grace can be given to those who are not in _____ circumstances

What does this teach us?

Three Negatives come out of this miracle of feeding the 5,000

- (1) The crowd tried to force Jesus to be _____ (Jn 6:15)
The way to the throne is not the red carpet that Satan offers nor upon the shoulders of His supporters, but the way of the Cross.
- (2) The next day many _____ Jesus because He would not feed them again (Jn 6:31, 34, 66)
- (3) The disciples did not _____ the big picture of who Jesus is

Mark 8:14-21 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. ¹⁵ And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." ¹⁶ They *began* to discuss with one another *the fact* that they had no bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, *said to them, "Why do you discuss *the fact* that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? ¹⁸ HAVING EYES, DO YOU NOT SEE? AND HAVING EARS, DO YOU NOT HEAR? And do you not remember, ¹⁹ when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." ²⁰ "When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven." ²¹ And He was saying to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

