***Mark 8:1-8 In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, 2“I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. 3And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.” 4Then His disciples answered Him, “How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?” 5He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.” 6So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. 7They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them. 8So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments.***

Jesus, the Word become flesh, John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* This is the same Jesus Who said - “*I am the bread of life.* The Son of God, sent to save Jew and Gentile alike - He sees the multitude and has compassion. And we must have compassion.

Feeding the 5000 took place near Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, in a predominantly Jewish area. Feeding the 4000 takes place in the Region of the Decapolis, a predominantly Gentile region. Jesus fed the Jews first and then the Gentiles – In Mark 7:27, there is an exchange between a Gentile woman seeking healing for her daughter and Jesus - *But Jesus said to her, “Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”* Her response should not be lost on us - *Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.*

12 baskets were taken up at the feeding of the Jews – 12 tribes of Israel. 7 baskets were taken up at the feeding of the Gentiles – 7 is a number in the Bible showing completion. Jesus is opening the door to all of God’s people and healing the divide between God and man. He says - The Gentiles “*have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat” –* Jesus has not yet died, His body is not yet the Bread of Life for Gentiles. After 3 days, Jesus arises, and in John 6:35, He says - *He who comes to Me shall never hunger!* Salvation for the Gentiles.

Verse 8 says - *So they ate and were filled.* Many times, we gloss over this verse, but I believe that it’s a clear message to us. The seven loaves of blessed bread that Jesus multiplied fed 4000 men until they were filled! They received the bread and were satisfied. They could’ve left that place rubbing their tummies and talking about, “That was good bread!” The verse could have stopped there, but instead we read *and they took up 7 large baskets of leftover fragments.* What happened to the leftover fragments? Have you ever wondered? Why bother taking them up?

The bread that filled 4000 + to satisfaction will be shared. Christ Jesus, the very Bread of Life, is not only meant to fill us while we sit in a sanctuary and listen to the Word. We’re not meant to leave here rubbing our heads and saying, “That was a good word today – lots of Jesus in that one!” We’re meant to gather large baskets of what we are hearing and go and share this with all who are hungry, so they too might be filled. Giving them a taste of the Bread of Life, talking about what we learned. Every one of us should leave with a basket overflowing this morning to share with the starving of this life. Give them a taste and tell them where to get more! Church isn’t just about coming and being fed. It’s about what we can take forward and who we can feed. Yes, they are leftover fragments! We don’t need the whole loaf to feed someone starving for knowledge of eternal life. We bring a taste – we point the way.John 6:35 tells us what happens then - “*I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.* Romans 10:14 asks - *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a kay-roos-so?* A Public Crier – a person who speaks of Jesus publicly – that should be all of us.

This week, let’s consider who we’re sharing with. Are we simply going home filled or are we sharing pieces of what we are blessed with each Sunday? Are we sharing Jesus? Maybe someone throws what we share on the ground…. Does that mean we never share again? No. It means that someone else may come and eat the crumbs and realize where to get Bread that satisfies hunger forever. Today, are we simply consuming? Or are we gathering enough to share? Every disciple is called to have compassion on the hurting and to gather enough to share… who will you, who will I, share The Bread of Life with this week?