

Feast - Policed - Yeast

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide#2 Safe Families:** We're a **Safe Family Church**. We'd love 4 u to be a **Safe Host Family**.
- B. **Children at Risk:** not next Sun, because Fathers Day. **Will be the next Sun 6/23**.
- C. **Slide#3 Chaplains:** SCCA @ MPD Thurs 6/20. "Carrying for Dispatchers". I listened to a 911 call of a girl where her mom, 2 sisters, laying dead downstairs, when moms boyfriend snapped. **PTSD?**
- D. **Slide#4 AIM Video:** Thanks from Don & Bridget Brewster.
- E. **Slide#5 Persecuted Church:** Meet **Aman Ullah**, a 16yr old Christian convert from Islam. He was kidnapped by the Taliban on May 25th in Peshawar.
 1. The young kidnap victim came to Christ about a year ago, and he has already memorized the books of John & Ephesians. **His goal is to memorize the entire NT since he had memorized the Quran as a young person. Aman Ullah means "peace of God" in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Pushto languages.**

II. Slide#6 **Intro:**

- A. Some people need some **extra help**...like the man who went into a bank and said he wanted some money. The teller asked them to make out a check. But the man would not do it. So the teller said, "If you won't sign the check, I can't give you any money."
The man went across the street to another bank, where the same conversation took place. But after this exchange the teller *reached across the counter, took him by the ears, and banged his head 3x's on the counter*. After which the man took out a pen calmly signed a check. The man then return to the first bank and said, "They give me money across the street."
"How did that happen?" Asked the teller. "They explained it to me!" Answered the man.
 1. Sometimes we need just a little more "splainin". **As the disciples needed here.**
- B. **Title & Outline:** **Feast; Policed; Yeast.**

III. Slide#7 **FEAST (1-10)**

- A. **Isn't the bible full of contradictions?** - I thought it was a feeding of 5000 not 4000???
- B. **Slide#8** These are simply 2 different events. **I found 8 differences.**
 1. Feeding 5000 took place on the **Western** shore of Galilee;
Feeding 4000 on the **Eastern** shore.
 2. Feeding 5000 involved predominantly **Jews**;
Feeding 4000 involved predominantly **Gentiles**.
 3. Feeding 5000 involved **5 loaves & 2 fish**;
Feeding 4000 involved **7 loaves & a few fish**.
 4. Feeding 5000 the people had been w/Him **1 day**;
Feeding 4000 the people had been w/Him **3 days**.

5. Feeding 5000 had **12 little baskets** of fragments left over; [*kophinos*; small wicker baskets]
Feeding 4000 had **7 large baskets** of fragments left over. [*spuris*; large hamper; Acts 9:25]
6. Feeding 5000 Jesus **prayed 1 time**;
Feeding 4000 Jesus **prayed 2 times** over the bread & fish.
7. The **amount** of the 2 **crowds** were different (5000 & 4000)
8. **Lastly**, Jesus says it was **2 different events!!!** (vs.19,20)

C. Jesus was quite the preacher to keep them listening for **3 days**. (2)

D. **Slide#9** Why is He doing this miracle again? (4)

1. A different crowd (Gentiles). **Compassion on them**.
2. Also, **Does yesterday's miracle necessarily guarantee today's faith?** (no it doesn't)
3. And as they say, **Repetition is the mother of all learning!**

E. **So**, Why is He doing this miracle again?

1. **Slide#10a** He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...He is the Bread of Life.
 - a) Jn.6:48-51 **Yes, I am the bread of life! Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."**
 - b) **My credentials:** My Father prophesied to Moses in Ex.16:4 *Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you*(manna/Jesus). I was born in the **city of Bread** (Bethlehem). It explains **My person**, *I am the bread of life*; It explains **My power**, the miraculous multiplication shouted omnipotence. It explains **My suffering**, *the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*.
2. **Slide#10b** He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...He was not just the Bread for the **Jews**, but also for the **Gentiles**.
3. **Slide#10b** He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...His supply always meets and exceeds the demand.
 - a) Christ did not break the bread, so that suddenly there were **huge piles** of bread and fish. **Rather**, He **kept breaking it** & handing out what was needed **bit by bit**.
 - (1) We need to be **constantly** bringing our needs to Jesus, **and** He will constantly **break the bread and** give us what we **need**.
4. Whatever God has given us, there is still far more for Him to give us.
 - a) **Slide#11** Our **souls**, so to speak, are **elastic**. The more we **eat** the more they **expand**. The more they **expand**, the more we are able to **eat**.¹ [stretchy pants - stretchy souls!]
 - b) **None of us have ever eaten as much as He wants to give us.**
 - c) We are meant to hunger, **&** to eat & eat & eat.

¹ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.188.

- F. (10) **Dalmanutha** – Exact location is unknown. Matthew places it near Magdala, on the Western shore of Galilee (Near Capernaum).

IV. Slide#12 **POLICED (11,12)**

- A. Slide#13 Here comes the *spiritual coonhounds* again. (Pharisees)
1. They'd do anything to *Tree the Savior*. [eventually did on the cross]
 2. **Chase & trap is what they do best.** (or at least “try” to do)
 - a) Sounds like a few **churches** I know. Sounds like a few **Christians** I know.
- B. Slide#14 **A sign from heaven** – This was simply another sign of **their unbelief...faith** doesn't ask for signs.
1. True faith takes God at His word. **But they wanted a “authenticating miracle” to validate his ministry.**
 - a) But He had already done many miracles...*would they have believed if he did 1 more?*
 2. **Still today we have a generation that is looking for the bizarre, the spectacular, & the out-of-the-ordinary.** Thus they are more interested in **the miracle, then the miracle worker.**
 3. I'd rather have **Jesus than any miracle He is able to do.**
- C. **What was Jesus reaction?** – he *sighed deeply*. (single strong word in Greek; found only here in the NT)
1. The **willful unbelief** of the religious leaders **disturbed Christ** to the depths of His spirit
 2. **No sign** – a Hebrew oath formula meaning, *if I do such a thing, may I die!* (LKGNT)
- D. **What else did He say here?** - Mt 16:4 **A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**
1. Mark seems to be saying, **no sign of this kind you are seeking will be shown you... only the sign Jonah symbolized...i.e. Jesus death, burial, & res.**
- E. (13) **And he left them** – It was an act of judgment; refusing the Pharisees.
1. How sad to have the Savior **sail away**.
 2. Today, Jesus is either **sailing away from you or sailing away with you. Which is it?**

V. Slide#15 **YEAST (13-21)**

- A. The miracle of the 4,000 had had *little effect* in bringing **spiritual reflection**.
1. **Don't judge...How many have you missed?...Today?**
- B. Slide#16 **Boys**, He fed 1000's of folks w/bread. **Why worry/argue over 1 loaf, when Jesus is in your boat?**
1. Their **minds** were dull; their **hearts** were hard; their **spiritual eyes** were blind; & their **spiritual ears** were deaf.

- C. (14b) They did not have more than **one loaf** w/them in the boat? – Yes they did, they had 2 – They had *the Bread of Life* aboard!!!
1. It wasn't so much that they **forgot** the bread, as much as they **missed** the loaf.
- D. (15) But the real lesson wasn't only about bread...but about **leaven/yeast**.
1. Leaven is consistently a symbol for **evil** in Scripture.
 2. **Evil**, like **leaven**, is *small & hidden*, but it spreads quickly & soon *infects the whole*.
 3. Gal.5:9 **A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Or,**
(NIV) **A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.**
 4. Here, the context was the leavened **lessons/teachings** of the **Pharisees** & of **Herod** (Mt. mentions **Sadducees** also).
 - a) See, just a small deviation from the Word may **get into** an **individual** or a **whole church**, & before long will **grow & infect everything**.
- E. Also, Jesus only used **Take heed** when it was of utmost importance. (about 5 times)
1. **Slide#17a The Pharisees teachings to watch for? – Legalism.**
 - a) Today we can fall into the same trap of legalism; **that is** trying to live the Christian life by **obeying a set of rules**.
 - b) **Christianity isn't being inhibited by rules; but by being inhabited by a Ruler.**
 - c) The legalistic church is a sad church...w/no joy; no thrill; no excitement; no victory.
 2. **Slide#17b Herod's teachings to watch for? – Worldliness.**
 - a) This is the church where there is **no difference in lifestyles** of its members & those of the lost world.
 3. **Slide#17c The Sadducees teachings to watch for? – Liberalism.**
 - a) They didn't believe in the supernatural, in the power of God, in miracles.
 - b) The spiritual Liberals don't understand Gods power.
 4. **Today**, Jesus still warns us...**Beware of the leaven of Legalism; the leaven of Worldliness; & the leaven of Liberalism.**
- F. (17) Here Jesus drills them with **9 rapid fire questions**.
1. **Remember the teller** that reached across the counter, took him by the ears, and banged his head 3x's?
Why do you reason because you have no bread? Bang! Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Bang! Is your heart still hardened? Bang! Having eyes, do you not see? Bang! And having ears, do you not hear? Bang! How is it you do not understand? Bang! Bang! Bang!
 2. I'm sure when He got done with the 9th question...all you could hear was the oars dragging in the water.
 3. Oh they knew the **answers** but didn't understand the **meaning**.

4. Slide#18 Jesus was arousing them from their **spiritual stupor**.
 - a) Problem wasn't hardness of heart **but familiarity**.
 - b) The **repeated exposure** to His teaching, **when not reflected upon & acted upon**, worked **progressive insensitivity** & **dullness** in their lives.
 - c) **It was a case of use it or lose it**. They were not **appropriating** what they were **seeing & hearing**. Feast on Jesus!
- G. Slide#19 (21) **How is it you do not understand?** – It's best to see this question **not as** the continuation of a rebuke, **but as a searching appeal** to the disciples. **Now, do you still not understand I am the Bread of Life for the whole world?**
 1. Here, Jesus is getting them ready to hear about **the Cross**(8:31). Here, they were preoccupied with **food**.
 2. **Is Jesus your bread? Your sustenance? Your spiritual nourishment?**
Do you understand He is your Bread for all life?