

## “Everyday Master and Commander”

The 5<sup>th</sup> of 5 looks at the authority of Jesus: *his right to rule, his willingness to use that right* → *Knowing the real Jesus!*  
**THE STARTING LINE:** Faithfully serving Jesus involves understanding his authority .

So far what his disciples (and we) should have come to understand about his authority

**His authority over demons:** *What he has come to do:* To destroy the works (and the workers) of the devil and to free people.

**His authority over physical limitations:** *How he means to do it:* (Physician's priorities) He especially means to solve our most serious life-threatening problems, e.g. the forgiveness of sins

**His authority over the Law:** *Why he means to do it:* A relationship with him is the point of everything because HE is the point of everything!

**His authority over the environment:** *How able he is to make it happen!* All of creation is under his authority.

### NOTES:

**Mark 8:1-5** In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away." And his disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" And he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven."

A smaller crowd (4000 vs. 5,000), but (**Vs. 4**) they don't seem to have any ideas on how this crowd might be fed! By the time we get to Chapter 8, Jesus has healed all sorts of sick people of all sorts of sicknesses, has commanded demons to leave people, has changed the weather, has changed some of the laws of God, has raised a girl from the dead and has walked on water **AND** he has fed a large crowd of people, miraculously, with just a few little loaves and fish... and here, he repeats THAT miracle.

**Mark 8:6-9** And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away.

1. Understanding the authority of Jesus is just the start!

Two short boat rides...

**Vss.10-12** Pharisees ask for a sign and he refuses (but then he had just for the second time performed a great sign with bread and fish.) But are his disciples, the insiders, showing just as much difficulty grasping what is going on as the Pharisees, the outsiders? (The Pharisees only wanted the sign "to test him"...)

**Mark 8:13-20** And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven."

Vs.14 Incidentally, the disciples forgot to bring bread so they only had one loaf.

Vs. 15 He warns them about "the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod"

Vs. 16 Two weak points: They just don't get what he means and they forget they did have one loaf of bread.

A pretty insightful picture ... of them. And of us? They have seen Jesus do pretty great things. They have little to show for it: just one loaf of bread ... and they are forgetting that they have it!

Vss.17,18 He asks them: Do you not YET perceive or understand? Are YOUR hearts hardened? [*Are you unable to love me as you should?*] Are you "blind" and "deaf"? *Don't you remember?*

Vss. 19,20 He does the arithmetic for them 5,000 fed from 5 loaves = 12 baskets left!

4,000 fed from 7 loaves = 7 baskets left!  
Now, 12 of them and 1 loaf => Is there a problem here?

**Mark 8:21** And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

THE SUMMARY QUESTION: (As in **vs. 4**)

Understand what exactly? They have already come to understand some important truths about his authority. And so have we, I think! And here?

2. We need to understand how to live under his authority and we need to remember to do so!

Understanding his authority doesn't mean we are living under it. This must be learned.

Living under his authority requires us to remember it constantly. Looking to him as our Master and Commander should be a daily experience.

Notice the link: made twice => **vs. 17, vs. 21** => *understanding* and *heart*.

The real story behind the fast forgetting is the hardness of their hearts: they didn't love him enough. They didn't love God enough. They didn't hate strongly enough the idea of being hypocrites, mask-wearers, pretend Christians.

**ACTION:** Commit yourself to loving Jesus more:

Compare the repair of a marriage. Or an adult improving his relationship to a parent. Or a business partner. Maybe you go to a counselor, an expert with some advice.

Or as in a folk tale: Three gifts for the purpose: bread, water and a key.

a) by abiding in his Word **John 8:31,32** The truth sets us free! Free from what?

Bread that is eaten and then works like a sword, **Hebrews 4:12** *living, active, sharper, piercing, discerning, heart!*  
(Sunday mornings ... and "daily bread")

b) by being filled with his Spirit **Ephesians 5:18**

The Spirit, like water that cleanses.

**Titus 3:3-6** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...

*washing, regeneration, renewal, poured out on us* (Baptisms, February 22!)

c) by being attached to one of his actual churches -> an actual church:

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

As we get filled with the Spirit, because God pours him out on us and we open our mouths wide and get filled up with him, so the church, the churches, get filled up with the likes of us.

A result: **Colossians 3:16** The word of Christ dwells in an actual church richly, and the people in that church are taught and admonished by one another, and their hearts are influenced; changed: singing with thankfulness to God! These are hearts that aren't inclined to forget!

**Psalms 103:** We say to our souls: "Forget none of his benefits" and he gives us, as benefits, three powerful gifts to ensure that we won't forget!