

Feedings of the 5000 and 4000 in Mark: A Comparison

Feeding of 5000 (6:30-44)	Feeding of 4000 (8:1-10)
setting: NW shore of Sea of Galilee (Jewish setting)	setting: SE shore of Sea of Galilee (Gentile setting)
deserted place, but food in the vicinity	completely desert place, with no food nearby
Jesus has compassion on crowd (3rd person)	Jesus has compassion on crowd (1st person)
because they are like sheep (<i>erev</i>) without (<i>delit</i>) a shepherd (possible allusion to Zech 13:7)	because they have been with him three (<i>telat</i>) days (<i>erev</i> = evening)
disciples suggest sending people away to get food, but Jesus tells disciples to feed the crowd	Jesus is concerned about their hunger
disciples say it will cost 200 denarii (a large sum, which they don't have)	disciples ask how bread can be found in desert (allusion to manna story) - <i>disciples' questions in two account show that they are two versions of the same story, because as slow as the disciples are in Mark, even they would have remembered a previous miraculous feeding</i>
number of loaves: 5	number of loaves: 7 (=5+2?)
number of fish: 2	number of fish: a few small fish
Jesus prays & breaks bread (eucharist)	Jesus prays & breaks bread (eucharist)
number of baskets of leftovers: 12, a number important in a Jewish context	number of baskets of leftovers: 7, a number important in a Gentile context
5000 men (males)	4000 people (lit. "there were about 4000")