

DEEP

Deep, Wide & Costly — Part 1

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"During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, 'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.' His disciples answered, 'But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?' 'How many loaves do you have?' Jesus asked. 'Seven,' they replied. He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When He had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, He broke them and gave them to His disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; He gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand were present. After He had sent them away, He got into the boat with His disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test Him, they asked Him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.' Then He left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side."

Mark 8:1-13 (NIV)

1. Notice the difference in the way they approach Jesus:

Crowd:

- gather around Jesus
- with Him three days
- asked for nothing but Jesus' presence

Pharisees:

- come to Jesus
- immediately question Jesus to test Him
- ask for a sign

2. Notice the difference in what they receive from Jesus:

Crowd:

- Jesus' compassion
- Jesus performs a sign
- they all eat and are satisfied (physically & spiritually)

Pharisees:

- Jesus "sighed deeply"
- Jesus does not perform any sign
- Jesus leaves—they are left empty, with nothing

Understanding the Presence of God:

1. God's Common Presence.

2. God's Heavy Presence.

What are you truly hungry for? What are you really longing for?

- "What do you want?" John 1:38 (NIV)
- "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NIV)
- "Stop your striving, and recognize that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NET)