

## ***The Loaves and Fishes***

### ***Mark 6***

#### **LEVEL 5 – THE LORD'S QUESTIONS, DOWN TO THE VERY NUMBERS**

When you have finished reading this, you will be asked to list at least four questions which Jesus asked people, and you will be asked to give one example of *why* He asked the questions, that is, what was His *purpose* in putting the question.



The miracle of feeding the 5,000 is recorded in each of the four Gospels. Besides *Mark 6*, it is in *John 6*, *Matthew 14* and *Luke 9*.

One can put together a wonderful scene. In *John* we find that when the Lord saw the crowd, He singled out one of the disciples (it was Philip) and asked him a question. The question was this:

**“Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”**

Philip’s answer shows that Philip went through a quick calculation in his mind. For Philip said,

“Two hundred denari worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”

Pause and consider why the Lord asked the question. You will probably conclude that the Lord didn’t ask this because He wanted to know where they could buy bread. When you have guessed in your own mind why He did ask, read the 6th verse of *John 6*, and write the verse below:

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## THE LORD'S QUESTIONS

You may have seen a red-letter Bible, a Bible which in the New Testament puts in red the words spoken by the Lord. Do you know in the sequence of the story what are the first words in red? They were spoken when the Lord was twelve years old. Look them up now in *Luke 2: 49*. Notice that the words are in the form of a question. Write the question the Lord asked:

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The questions the Lord asked go on through the story, and we may be sure they have purpose. After the Lord was crucified and appeared in His glorified Human, He asked questions, such as:

“**Woman, why are you weeping?**” (*John 20: 15*). He asked two disciples what they were talking about and why they were sad (*Luke 24: 17*).

“**Why do you worry about clothing?**” “**Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?**” (*Matthew 6: 27,28*).

“**Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread will give him a stone?**” (*Matthew 7: 9*).

“**Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?**” (*Matthew 10: 29*).

The questions get people to think about their worries, and see them in new perspective.



### QUESTIONS ON THE LOAVES AND BASKETS

In *Mark 6* we see that the Lord asked the disciples very specifically, “**How many loaves do you have? Go and see.**” And they themselves made the count and answered, “**Five, and two fish.**”

This would help them remember when questions were later asked. They themselves took up the baskets of fragments, twelve in number, that were left after five thousand had been fed.

### Questions bring a new level of awareness

Now we come to the fascinating situation recorded in *Mark* Chapter 8. The striking questions are directly related to the event of the feeding of the five thousand in *Mark* 6. The disciples thought that the Lord was concerned, because they had forgotten to take bread. The Lord then asked them no less than nine questions in a row in *Mark* 8 verses 17-21. Here they are:

- 1) “Why do you reason because you have no bread?” (vs.17)
- 2) “Do you not yet perceive nor understand?” (vs.17)
- 3) “Is your heart still hardened?” (vs.17)
- 4) “Having eyes, do you not see?” (vs.18)
- 5) “And having ears, do you not hear?” (vs.18)
- 6) “And do you not remember?” (vs.18)
- 7) “When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?” (vs.19) *They said to Him, “Twelve.”*
- 8) “And when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” *And they said, “Seven.”*
- 9) “How is it you do not understand?”

The disciples had counted the loaves to begin with, and they had themselves gathered the twelve baskets of fragments and the seven baskets of fragments. This enabled them to allow these other questions the Lord asked to bring them to a new level of awareness so that they would not worry in the same way again.

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### **Application**

List here at least four questions that the Lord asked in the gospels. In at least one case give the reason **why** He asked the question.

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