



TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 15 Issue 51

December 20, 2020

TWELVE BASKETS, SEVEN BASKETS

On two occasions, Jesus fed a multitude of people. We estimate 10,000 or more were fed based on Mark 6:44 and Mark 8:8. I'm sure we've heard and read about these miracles in the past. In Mark 6, we learn that Jesus fed 5000 men (not counting women and children, Matt. 14:21), and in Mark 8, he said Jesus fed 4000. This was done with a tiny amount of food in comparison to those who needed to be fed. In Mark 5, Jesus fed the multitude with five barley loaves and two small fish, while in Mark 8, we read that Jesus had seven loaves and a few fish. The miracle of feeding great numbers with a small amount of food is a wonderful event worthy

of our awe and respect. Feeding 5000+ (Matt. 14:21) motivated some people to want to force Christ to be a king (Jn. 6:15). Yet, this wasn't the point of the miracle(s). Feeding these great numbers should have brought the people's minds back to events that happened in Old Testament days. One such example is what Elisha did in II Kings 4:42-44. Of course, Christ's compassion motivated Him to feed the people (Mk. 6:34, 8:2), and at the same time, this miracle would show people again that He is the Son of God, not merely a good teacher or a good leader. However, what gets my attention is that both times

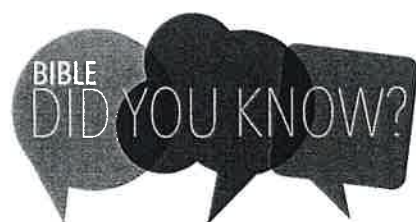
the miracle was performed, there were leftovers! Can you imagine this? Just having enough food to feed more than one person was something. Then to think of His ability to feed the people until they were full (Mk. 6:42, 8:8) is a miracle! We read in Scripture that there was not only food, but enough to fill the people, and so much food that there were *leftovers*? Amazing! Praise be to God! Could there be any significance to the fact that one miracle produced leftovers that filled twelve baskets while another filled seven baskets? That number hasn't escaped my notice. Jesus didn't say much about the result of those miracles except the time He chastised the apostles for not understanding what He meant by "*the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees*" (Matt. 16:6-12, Mk. 8:14-21). However, could there be something worth considering when we think of the numbers 12 and 7? I am willing to discuss this, but could it be that

twelve baskets were left so that the twelve apostles had something they could touch and remember? John 6:5-7 gives us some insight into the apostles' attitude, and it seems they doubted how the people would get fed anyway. "*Two hundred pennyworth*" (nearly a year's wages) wasn't enough to feed everyone, Philip estimated. Thus, at the end of the miracle, each apostle had gathered a basket of food. The feeding of the 4000 resulted in seven baskets of leftovers (Mk. 8:8). To the Jews, "7" represented perfection. The perfect number of baskets leftover certainly would be the "perfect" end to a miracle where so many were fed. Even if you disagree with the application I made, I know we can all agree that Jesus is the One who can supply our needs (Matt. 6:25-33). He made this abundantly clear that He could feed the people so that they would be well-fed for the journey to their homes. Jesus lived on this earth for 33 years, and He knows

man's physical and spiritual needs (Heb. 4:15). Blessing people with goods to where they had leftovers reminds me of God's promise in Malachi 3:10 to His people. Jesus came to this world that men might *"have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (Jn. 10:10). Isn't the feeding of 5000 and 4000 object lessons of this truth? If Christ can provide abundant physical food, can we not also have abundant spiritual blessings? I believe so! Jesus has given us *"all things that pertain to life and godliness"* (II Pet. 1:3). Are we appreciative? Have we noticed what He has provided? Indeed, we have access to so much in the Lord that the "leftovers" are more than anyone could fathom! Are you a Christian? If not, why not? The chasm and blackness that fills your soul can be filled and enlightened when you come to the Lord for salvation (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16)! Living the life of a Christian is a beautiful blessing wherein we have *"a far more exceeding*

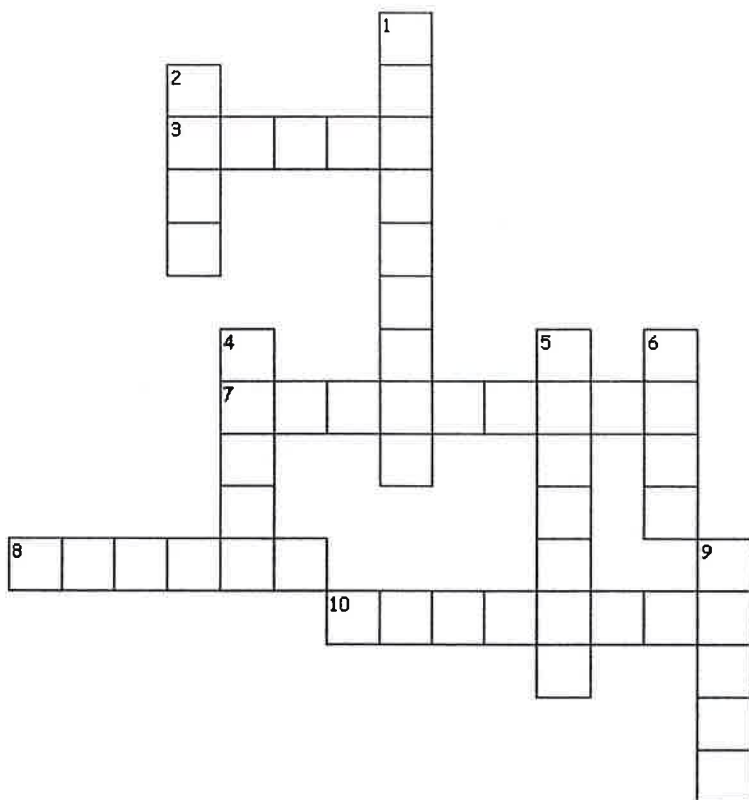
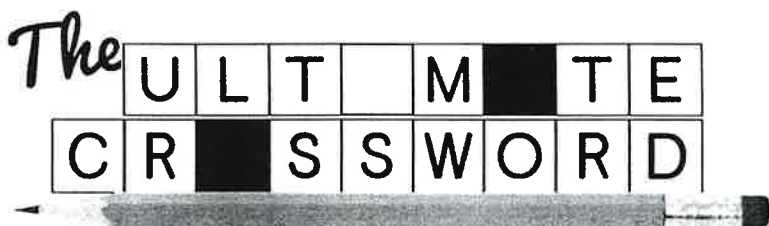
and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17). Do you believe the miracles occurred concerning the feeding of the masses? If so, what is stopping you from partaking of the spiritual food and spiritual water that can sustain you for eternity? Indeed, this is available in unlimited supply!

— Jarrod Jacobs



***"I, wisdom, dwell with
prudence, and I find
knowledge and discretion.
The fear of the LORD is to
hate evil; pride and
arrogance and the evil
way and the perverted
mouth, I hate. Counsel is
mine and sound wisdom; I
am understanding, power
is mine. By me kings
reign, and rulers decree
justice. By me princes
rule, and nobles, all who
judge rightly. I love those
who love me; and those
who diligently seek me
will find me."***

Prov. 8:12-17



ACROSS

3. In regards to love, Thessalonians urged to ____ still more (1 Thess. 4:9-10)
7. Thessalonians told to ____ the fainthearted (1 Thess. 5:14).
8. Those who die in hope have fallen ____ in Jesus (1 Thess. 4:13-14).
10. Thessalonians told to ____ the unruly (1 Thess. 5:14).

DOWN

1. Acting as a helmet is the hope of ____ (1 Thess. 5:8).
2. We are encouraged to not be in any ____ toward outsiders (1 Thess. 4:12)
4. Live in ____ with one another (1 Thess. 5:13).
5. Be ____ with everyone (1 Thess. 5:14).
6. Help the ____ (1 Thess. 5:14).
9. The day of the Lord will come like a ____ in the night (1 Thess. 5:2).