



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE®

BREAD OF LIFE

The Eucharist in Galilee

BREAD OF LIFE GROUP REFLECTION

EPISODE 5:

Eyes to See and Ears to Hear

Dr. Tim Gray

STUDY GOALS

In this final episode, Jesus challenges his disciples because of their blindness, deafness, and lack of understanding. In spite of all they have seen and experienced, they still do not fully understand that Jesus is God. But understanding and having faith in who Jesus is will be necessary for the disciples, and for us, when Jesus gives us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

Scripture

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

(Mark 8:14–21)

¹⁴Now they had forgotten to bring bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵And he cautioned them, saying, “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.” ¹⁶And they discussed it with one another, saying, “We have no bread.” ¹⁷And being aware of it, Jesus said to them, “Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹When 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.” ²⁰“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”

And they said to him, “Seven.” ²¹And he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”



VIEW AND DISCUSS

1. Why do the disciples not understand that they do indeed have bread with them in the boat? What are they focused on? What should they be focused on? How are we like that sometimes?
2. As you consider the disciples' reactions to Jesus' miracles and teachings, what surprises you the most? What have you learned from them? How will this affect your reactions to Jesus' working in your own life?
3. What miracles does Jesus perform immediately before (Mark 7:31–37) and after (Mark 8:22–26) the multiplication on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee? What is the connection between these two healings and the disciples' reaction to Jesus feeding two crowds miraculously?
4. What is the ultimate difficulty that the disciples have (see Mark 8:21)? How do we also have this same problem at times in our lives?
5. Looking back on these Galilean multiplication miracles, what are the most important things you will remember?



REVIEW

In all these episodes, Jesus is teaching on the Eucharist, the truth that the Eucharist is his Body and Blood. This requires faith. In every episode, we have seen the challenge of faith. We do not want to be found with hard hearts that do not understand. We want to believe so that we can see, hear, and understand Jesus' great gift of himself in the Eucharist. Jesus is the Bread of Life. If we eat this bread, we will have eternal life, and he will raise us up on the last day.

What did you find most helpful or most challenging in this teaching?

What one thing will you do differently because of this session?

Memory Verse

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
your Savior. —*Isaiah 43:3*

INSIGHTS FROM THE ANCIENTS

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:¹ Can you hear the intense displeasure in his voice? For nowhere else does he appear to have rebuked them so strongly. ... He even reminds them of the specific numbers of loaves and of persons fed, both to bring them to recall the past, and to make them more attentive to the future.²

NOTES:

Lined area for taking notes.

¹ John Chrysostom (344/354–407; fl. 386–407), Bishop of Constantinople who was noted for his orthodoxy, his eloquence, and his attacks on Christian laxity in high places.
² Thomas C. Oden and Christopher A. Hall, eds., *Mark: Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, revised (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 102.

