

Lutheran Confessions

Large Catechism: Lord's Prayer, Second Petition

58] All this is the fault of the shameful unbelief which does not look to God for as much good as will satisfy the stomach, much less expects without doubt such eternal treasures of God. Therefore we must strengthen ourselves against it, and let this be our first prayer; then, indeed, we shall have all else in abundance, as Christ teaches [Matt. 6, 33]: *Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.* For how could He allow us to suffer want and to be straitened in temporal things when He promises that which is eternal and imperishable?

Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, Article II

16] And after God through the Holy Ghost in Baptism has kindled and effected a beginning of the true knowledge of God and faith, we should pray Him without ceasing that through the same spirit and His grace, by means of the daily exercise of reading and practicing God's Word, He would preserve in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us from day to day, and keep us to the end. For unless God Himself be our schoolmaster, we can study and learn nothing that is acceptable to Him and salutary to ourselves and others.

Large Catechism: Lord's Supper

23] On this account it is indeed called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew; but (as we said before) there still remains, besides, the old vicious nature of flesh and blood in man, and there are so many hindrances and temptations of the devil and of the world that we often become weary and faint, and sometimes also stumble.

24] Therefore it is given for a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so as not to fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger. 25] For the new life must be so regulated that it continually increase and progress; 26] but it must suffer much opposition. For the devil is such a furious enemy that when he sees that we oppose him and attack the old man, and that he cannot topple us over by force, he prowls and moves about on all sides, tries all devices, and does not desist, until he finally wearies us, so that we either renounce our faith or yield hands and feet and become listless or impatient. 27] Now to this end the consolation is here given when the heart feels that the burden is becoming too heavy, that it may here obtain new power and refreshment.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

O God, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and give to us those things that be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN (*Collect for Trinity 7*)

Word of God: St. Mark 8:1-9 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

- Note: There are two different accounts of Jesus feeding the crowds.
 - Jesus feeds 4,000 (Mt 15:32-39, Mk 8:1-9)
 - Jesus feeds 5,000 (Mt 14:14-21, Mk 6:35-41, Lk 9:12-17, Jn 6:5-13)
- In both instances, Jesus has compassion on the large crowd. But why?
 - 5,000 (Mark 6:34) _____
 - 4,000 (Mark 8:2) _____
- What do we assume that Jesus is doing that the large crowds come? Mark 1:14, 21-22, 28, 32-34, 38; Mark 6:34 _____, Mark 6:55 _____
Why had they been with Jesus for three days?
- Why didn't they worry about their needs? No back up plan?
- See the first commandment! Consider Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
- Did Jesus take care of their needs?(v.8) From where do they get their strength? What will happen if they aren't sustained on the journey?
- Teaching in Numbers:
 - What do we learn from the seven fish and seven baskets?
 - What do we learn of the 4,000(4x1000)?
- Who was to be the distributors of Jesus' blessings? Who is today?
- Of what is this feast a foretaste? Of what do the words remind us?
- In Mark 6, Jesus feeds a large number of people. Did the disciples learn their lesson for the new opportunity in Mark 8? Again?
- The disciples call the place "remote." Would you expect to find bread to feed them in the desert? In God's Word? In Lord's Supper? In Baptism?
- The "ground" was cursed in Gen 3:17, but where do they receive here? (See Galatians 3:13-14)
- Do they understand after Mark 8? See Mk 8:18-21.

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #249, st. 5-6
4th Commandment & meaning, p. 300
5th Commandment & meaning, p. 300
St. Matthew 6:33

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses
"O Lord, open my lips..." p.224

+ Ascription of Praise
"Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia." p.225

Reading
St. Mark 8:1-9 (back)

Hymn
"Your Table I Approach" #249

Catechesis on... (back)
St. Mark 8:1-9
Liturgy
Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Recite Word by Word insert

Ten Commandments
Lord's Prayer
Apostles' Creed
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Matthew 28:19
Mark 16:16
Confession & Absolution
John 20:22-23
Sacrament of the Altar
Words of Institution

Collect of the Day
--prayer based on reading
R. AMEN
Benediction
R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. Mark 8:1-9

¹ In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them, ²“I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. ³“And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.” ⁴ Then His disciples answered Him, “How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?” ⁵ He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven.” ⁶ So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude. ⁷ They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before *them*. ⁸ So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. ⁹ Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He sent them away, (NKJV)

Marks of the Church

“It does not, however, pertain to those who are outside of Christ’s Church, where there is neither Word nor Sacraments, because **the kingdom of Christ exists only with the Word and Sacraments**” (Ap XI, 52)

“For, thank God, [to-day] a child seven years old knows what **the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd**. For the children pray thus: I believe in one holy [catholic or] Christian Church. 3] This holiness does not consist in albs, tonsures, long gowns, and other of their ceremonies devised by them beyond Holy Scripture, but in **the Word of God and true faith**. (Smalcald Articles III, XII. Of the Church)

“But the Church is not only the fellowship of outward objects and rites, as other governments, but it is originally a fellowship of faith and of the Holy Ghost in hearts. [**The Christian**

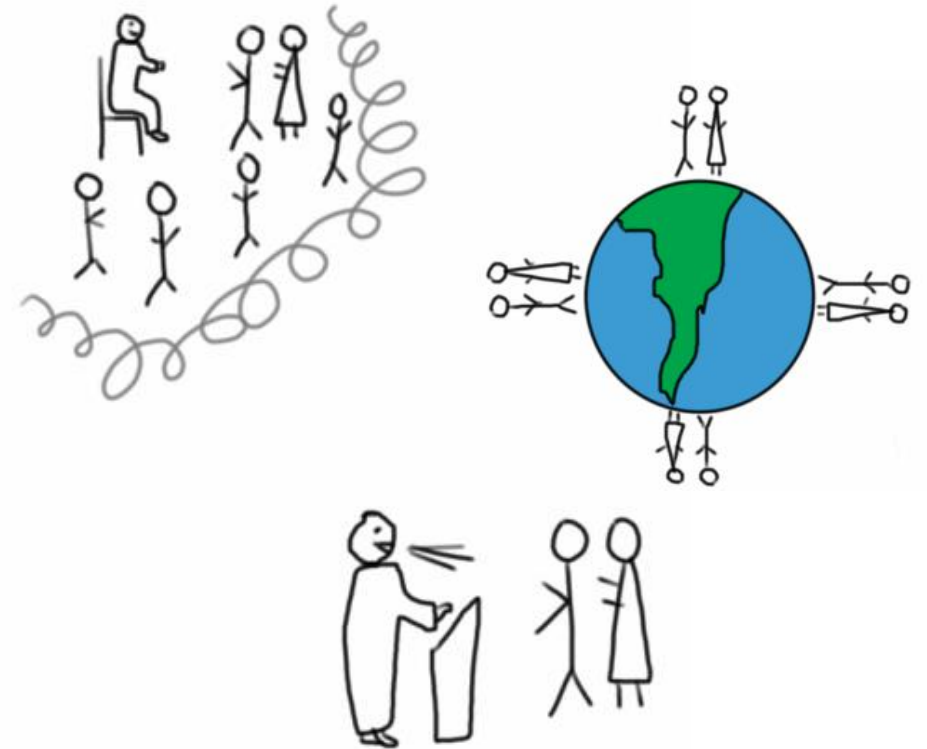
Church consists not alone in fellowship of outward signs, but it consists especially in inward communion of eternal blessings in the heart, as of the Holy Ghost, of faith, of the fear and love of God]; **which fellowship nevertheless has outward marks so that it can be recognized, namely, the pure doctrine of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments in accordance with the Gospel of Christ. [Namely, where God’s Word is pure, and the Sacraments are administered in conformity with the same, there certainly is the Church, and there are Christians.]** (Ap VII and VIII, 5).

Food for Christians

“But this petition is especially directed also against our chief enemy, the devil. For all his thought and desire is to deprive us of all that we have from God, or to hinder it; and he is not satisfied to obstruct and destroy spiritual government in leading souls astray by his lies and bringing them under his power, but he also prevents and hinders the stability of all government and honorable, peaceable relations on earth. There he causes so much contention, murder, sedition, and war, also lightning and hail to destroy grain and cattle, to poison the air, etc. **81]** In short, he is sorry that any one has a morsel of bread from God and eats it in peace; and if it were in his power, and our prayer (next to God) did not prevent him, we would not keep a straw in the field, a farthing in the house, yea, not even our life for an hour, **especially those who have the Word of God and would like to be Christians**” (LC 4th Petition).

“How would it be possible for a person to starve to death who serves God with fidelity and furthers His kingdom? After all, He gives the whole world more than enough. The earth would have to run out of bread or the heavens would have to run out of rain before a Christian would die of starvation; indeed, God Himself would have to starve to death first. Now, since **He has created and given so superabundantly and given such a sure promise** that He will give enough and will do so before we look around or become aware of it, why plague yourself with this terrible anxiety and greed? Everywhere, but especially in the Psalter, Scripture is full of statements like these (Ps. 33:19): “He feeds the pious in time of famine”; and (Ps. 37:19, 25): “I have never seen a pious man beg for bread.” He will not let your situation make a liar out of Him. Just believe! If the present world of noblemen, peasants, and city people refuses to do this, He can find other people or other means through which to give, and to give more than they can ever take away from you. (Luther’s Works Vol. 21, p.207).

Catechesis On St. Mark 8:1-9



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