

Feeding the Five Thousand

John 6:1-14

July 25, 2021

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.^[a] ³ And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. ⁵ Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" ⁶ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. ⁷ Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them ^[b] to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." ¹³ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." **John 6:1-14**

V2 **"they saw His miracles"** - The crowd followed Jesus because of what He could do for them. They wanted to be entertained.

V4 **"Now the Passover"** - This may be one of the reasons that the crowds were so large. John would constantly refer to Jewish culture in his writings.

V5 **"Jesus lifted up His eyes"**.

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" Matthew 9:36

Matthew would use the statement "moved with compassion" two other times in his Gospel. This gives us insight to the perspective that others had about Jesus. The only other disciple to use this phrase was Mark.

V6 **"He knew Himself What He would do"**.

"But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the father has given Me to finish-the very works I do-bear witness of me, that the father has sent me." John 5:36

The works Jesus did separated Him from ALL others.

V7 **"Two hundred denarii"**.

Denarius is equivalent to one day's wage. A roman penny. (more value than our penny)

V9 **"but what are they among so many"**.

This statement by Andrew points out the mindset of the disciples at this point. They knew that this food was not sufficient to feed a crowd of this size. This makes this account even more exciting because this was not a prepared situation by Jesus and His followers. It was totally unexpected. Even His own immediate disciples were taken by surprise.

V10 **"make them sit down"**.

This would cause order and would have cut down on any confusion with such a large crowd. It would also ensure that everyone would be fed and no one would be left out. In Mark's account he said they sat down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties.

V10 “now there was much grass”.

This points out the setting and the time of season (springtime) that they are in and it also points out Jesus' consideration for bodily comfort of His followers.

John 6:10 states that there were five thousand men. This number does not include women, children, and servants. If you add all the people present, this day you would have a total of between fifteen to twenty thousand people.

V11” Jesus took the loaves given thanks”.

This seems like a simple action but the Gospel of Luke says *“He took the five loaves and two fishes, looking up to heaven He blessed them, and brake, and gave.”*

V11 “He distributed to the disciples”.

There can be no doubt that at this point was when the miracle was manifested before their eyes. As Jesus broke the bread it increased in His hands. It was the act of breaking and giving to the disciples that the multiplication took part.

Why break the bread? Why not increase the bread as a whole?

It was to teach us that in the **distribution** of our resources we should expect His blessing, not in keeping them to ourselves.

V12 “when they were filled”.

This is fruition of the miracle. It was the proof that the account really happened. It would be **illogical** to think that the hunger sensation of such a large crowd could possibly be filled if there had not been a real supply of food and real eating of it.

V12 “gather up the fragments”.

This gives us a picture of the **magnitude** of this miracle. Not only was there enough food to feed the large crowd but there were also leftovers.

Some writers call this the greatest miracle ever performed by Jesus. At no other point in Jesus' earthy life did He clearly manifest His creative power.

Invitation/Prayer Response:

- How does this story apply to your life today?
- Are we only looking at what we can get from the relationship instead of what we can do for others?
- Can we do our part instead of waiting around for God or others to do it for us?