

Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding a Multitude with Five Loaves and Two Fishes

Introduction: This is perhaps the best known of all the miracles.

I. The events that led to the miracle.

- A. When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, He and His disciples boarded a boat to cross to the east side of the sea or lake of Galilee.
 - 1. They needed some peace and quiet away from the multitude.
 - 2. They needed some physical rest. (According to Mark, they had been too busy to eat their noon meal.)
- B. Some of the people ran around the shore and beat them to the other side, verse 13.
 - 1. Soon the others followed and several thousand people clamored for the attention of Jesus.
 - 2. Thus they still did not get any peace and quiet (rest).
 - 3. They did not get any dinner (unless they ate on the boat).
- C. Jesus had compassion on the multitude, verse 14.
 - 1. He was not angry that they demanded His time.
 - 2. It was compassion that had brought Him to the world.
 - 3. It was His compassion that would send Him to the cross.
 - 4. He had compassion on their physical need. (He healed their sick.)
 - 5. He had compassion on their spiritual need and provided Himself as their needed shepherd, Mark 6:34.
- D. The afternoon passed as He ministered to them.
 - 1. The time for the evening meal also passed, verse 15.
 - 2. The disciples were concerned about the people and suggested that Jesus send the people away so they could get food.
 - 3. Jesus said, "You feed them," verse 16.
 - 4. The disciples protested, "We do not have enough," verse 17.

II. The miracle.

- A. Jesus said, "Bring what you have to me," verse 18.
- B. Jesus instructed that the multitudes be seated in groups. (So that the apostles could walk among them so that nobody would miss getting some food.)
- C. Then Jesus started breaking off pieces of fish and bread into baskets and giving them to the apostles to distribute to the people, verse 19.
- D. Everybody was fed and filled, including the apostles, verse 20.
- E. There were twelve baskets full left over.
- F. There were five thousand men plus women and children, verse 21.

III. Lessons to be seen.

- A. The Lord is able to provide our physical needs.
 - 1. We have a tendency to worry and fret.
 - 2. What we ought to do is to learn to trust the Lord to provide, Psalm 23:1; Philippians 4:19.
- B. The Lord wants His disciples to serve.
 - 1. They served the people by distributing the food.
 - 2. They served the Lord by serving the people.
 - 3. So today we are to distribute the gospel.
- C. You cannot outgive God.
 - 1. They gave only five loaves and two fishes.
 - 2. They got back far more than they gave.

- D. All that we have and all that we are is inadequate to meet the need, but if we will use what means and talents we have for the Lord, He will bless and use them to His glory.
- E. Jesus is the Bread of Life to feed the hungry souls and bring salvation to man.
 - 1. In this record He took five loaves and two fishes and fed the multitude physically.
 - 2. On the cross of Calvary it was His own body that was broken and He provided Himself as the Bread of Life that all might be saved, John 6:35.

Conclusion:

- 1. I call upon all who are unsaved to trust in Jesus Christ.
- 2. I call upon all who are saved to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 6-10-84 A.M.