



Miracles Of Jesus

Lesson 5: Jesus Feeds Multitudes

On two different occasions during Jesus' life, He had the opportunity to show everyone that He is the Son of God by doing miracles to feed a great many people. The first time Jesus fed a multitude of people, there were about 5,000 men – plus women and children. You can read about this miracle in all four of the gospels – in Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, and John 6.

Jesus had just been told that His cousin, John the Baptist had been killed. So, He went off to a place by Himself. But, whenever the multitude of people heard where Jesus went, they followed Him. Then, Jesus and His disciples saw the multitude coming toward them.

Jesus was concerned about all the people and wanted them to be able to have some food. So, Jesus asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” (John 6:5). But, Jesus only asked this to test Philip. Jesus knew what He was going to do. Still, they did not have enough money to buy food for all of the people to have a little to eat.

Then, Peter came to Jesus, telling Jesus that there was a boy who had five barley loaves of bread and two small fish. However, Peter knew that wouldn't be enough to feed so many people. Normally, Peter would have been right. But, that was more than enough for Jesus!

Jesus told His disciples to make the people sit down. When they sat down in the grass, Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, and thanked God for their food. Then, He gave the bread to His disciples – who then gave it to all the people. And, there was enough food for all of the people to eat – plus some leftovers. After everyone had as much as they wanted to eat, the leftovers were gathered up so that none of the food would be wasted. After everything had been collected, there were twelve baskets full of food leftover!

Another time, Jesus had compassion on a multitude of about 4,000 men, plus women and children. You can read this story in Matthew 15 and Mark 8. These people had followed Jesus for three days and were continuing to follow Him, even though they had nothing to eat. Jesus knew that if He sent the people back to their homes without feeding them, they would faint on the way (for some of them were a long way from home).

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?" (Matthew 15:33). So, Jesus asked how many loaves of bread there were. They answered Him and said that there were seven loaves of bread and a few little fish.

Like He had done before, Jesus commanded that the multitude sit down on the ground. Then, He took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks to God for the food, and gave them to His disciples to give to all the people. After all the people ate so much that they were full, they gathered up what was left. They even had seven large baskets of leftover food!

Both of these stories teach us some important things about Jesus. They teach us that Jesus had great power. Only God could have such great power to feed all of these people with just a little bit of food. So, by doing these two miracles, Jesus demonstrated that He really is the Son of God! Then, these stories also teach us that Jesus cared about people very much. Whenever He saw people who did not have enough food to eat, He wanted to help them. But, most of all, He wanted them to believe that He really is the Son of God so that they could please God and have eternal life in Heaven!

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS5

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Study Questions:

1. How many people did Jesus feed?
2. Did Jesus or His disciples have enough money to buy food for all these people?
3. How much food did Jesus use to feed the 5,000?
4. How many baskets of leftover food was there after Jesus fed the 5,000?
5. How much food did Jesus use to feed the 4,000?
6. How many baskets of leftover food was there after Jesus fed the 4,000?
7. What did Jesus do before the people ate their food?
8. Why did Jesus feed all of these people?

Memory Verse:

“Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is come into the world’” (John 6:14).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: