

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 6:1-15

INTRODUCTION: JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE (TOTAL APPROX 20,000 – MEN WOMAN AND CHILDREN.

1. Mark 6:1-46 (Jesus feeds the five thousand).
2. Luke 9:1-17 (Jesus feeds the five thousand).
3. Matthew 14:1-22 (Jesus feeds the five thousand).

The First Feeding Miracle, "The Feeding of the 5,000" is the only miracle (apart from the resurrection) which is present in all four canonical Gospels: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:5-15.

The second miracle, "The Feeding of the 4,000" is reported by Mark 8:1-9 and Matthew 15:32-39 but not by Luke or John. This miracle is also known as the **miracle of the seven loaves and fish**, although it is more usually known as the 'miracle of the five loaves and fish.'

The second feeding miracle was the feeding of the four thousand.

Mark 8:1-9

¹ In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

² I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

³ And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.

⁴ And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?

⁵ And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.

⁶ And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.

⁷ And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

⁸ So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets.

⁹ And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.

The Feeding of the 5,000

The Feeding of the 5,000 is also known as the "miracle of the five loaves and two fish" given that the Gospel of John reports that five barley loaves and two small fish supplied by a boy were used by Jesus to feed a multitude.

1. According to the Gospels, when Jesus heard that [John the Baptist](#) had been killed, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place near [Bethsaida](#). The crowds followed Jesus on foot from the towns.
2. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
3. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus said they do not need to go away therefore the disciples were to give them something to eat.

They said they only had five loaves of bread and two fish then Jesus asked them to bring what they had to him. Jesus directed the people to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketsful of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Feeding of the 4,000

This appears in the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, is also known as the "miracle of the seven loaves and fishes" given that the Gospel of Matthew refers to seven loaves and a few small fish used by Jesus to feed a multitude.

1. According to the Gospels, a large crowd had gathered and was following Jesus. Jesus called his disciples to him and said:

"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

His disciples answered:

"Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?"

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.

"Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."

2. "Jesus told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
3. They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

The number of those who ate four thousand men, besides women and children. After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan."

TODAY WE LOOK AT THE SCRIPTURE :JOHN 6:1-15

In both accounts in the scripture of Jesus feeding the multitudes of the five thousand and then the four thousand, we see that the Lord had compassion on them because they were interested in what the Lord had to say.

1. In their interest they set aside everything they had to come and to hear what the Lord had to say.
2. The Lord knew that his compassion was on the fact that they needed a saviour, but in order for them to accept a saviour they had to believe by faith that he in fact was their saviour that had come to save them from their SINS.
3. They had come to the Lord because they saw something very different about him, and were captivated by what he had to say.
4. It took many hours of preaching by our Lord, which meant that they would be hungry and would need physical sustenance to keep them focused in what the Lord had to say.

As the Lord spoke to his disciples he said to them that these people needed compassion in the physical sense as well as the spiritual sense.

- The Lord's address to Phillip was a faith lesson to see how he would react in such a situation, both to feed the people he would witness to both physically and spiritually.
 - Phillip's situation seemed hopeless. With only two hundred pennies of food to offer he was not certain that it would be enough to fulfil the needy situation at hand.
 - It was the Lord who put his mind at ease, and said to all the disciples to trust him.
1. By offering to use what was available to feed the multitudes, both the disciples and the multitudes were about to experience another miracle by the hand of the Lord.
 2. The bible says that with God there is nothing impossible. And here we see that put into practice.
 - **Luke 1:37** For **with God** nothing shall be impossible.
 1. In Numbers 11 from verse 1 to verse 35 to the end of the chapter we see the people of God murmuring to Moses for all the manna that God had given them to eat and they were dissatisfied.

2. As they asked Moses for meat (flesh) to eat they got more than they bargained for.
3. The generosity of the Lord had been sneered at.

Numbers 11:31-33

³¹ And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

³² And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

³³ And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

4. When the Lord provides for us we sometimes are unthankful for what he has already given us. We should never say that we are not like the people in Numbers 11, because we are just like them in some cases.
5. Sometimes we are not pleased with how the Lord has provided for us. That's being unthankful to the Lord.

➤ Whenever the Lord did any miracles it caused many people to follow him.

1. People are drawn to miracles, especially things that they can't explain.

In John 6:2 we see the reason for them following the Lord.

John 6:2 ² And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

2. Just like magicians or sleight of hand acts draws crowds because it is not a normal thing for people to see, people are drawn by their curiosity.
3. In the case of the Lord, the miracles Jesus did were because he had compassion on people to heal them. The physical healing was his compassion.
4. The spiritual healing was his ultimate goal. A goal that they would believe what Moses and the prophets had written about him.
5. We find in John 6:14 the comment from the people which said he was the prophet for told by Moses.

John 6: ¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

➤ The scriptures that they were referring to was: Deuteronomy 18:15

Deuteronomy 18:15¹⁵ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

1. In a comparative way as we see the preparation of the Passover for the Jews in verse 4 was at hand we realise it was a time that the Lord would again use to witness to the Jews as he had done so many times before.
2. But on this occasion he was being overpowered by the multitudes who had sought him for other reasons as verse 2 tells us.
3. So the likeness of the Lord beginning to feed the five thousand is in his nature to have compassion.
4. The likeness of his compassion is again found in John 11 as he wept for Lazarus.

John 11:34-36³⁴ And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

John 6:4⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

5. If the Lord was to be the comforter as we know in the scriptures then he had to show compassion. Which he evidently did.
 - For me the miracle was not so much as feeding the five thousand from the limited amount of food multiplied by the Lord.
 - But for me the miracle was verse 14 when those men having seen the miracle said of a truth this is the prophet that should come into the world.

John 6:¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

1. This statement by those men was the acknowledgment of all that the Lord stood for, because Moses had told them.
2. These would be those men or even women and children **that believe who the Lord was.** He was the one Moses had spoken of, the Messiah to come the saviour of the world.
3. For me that is the miracle as people come to the Lord for salvation. Not what he has done in their lives to make it more comfortable for them.
 - **Today people Glory over what God has apparently provided them, instead they should glory over the salvation God has given them.**

PRAYER.....CLOSE