

Jesus' Feeding of the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21

(cf. Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:4-13)

I. Jesus' C_____ for the Crowds (vss. 13-14)

- a. Jesus left Galilee for rest and to avoid an early confrontation with Herod (cf. Mark 6:31; Luke 9:7-9)
 - b. **secluded place** = **erēmos** (ἐρημος) = "uninhabited" which means rural, not a desert or wasteland
 - i. It was near "**a city called Bethsaida**" (Luke 9:10; cf. Luke 3:1)
 - ii. About 6 miles from Capernaum, a 2-3 hour walk
 - c. Some people "**got there ahead of them**" (cf. Mark 6:33)
 - d. **compassion** = **splagchnizomai** (σπλαγχνίζομαι) "to experience great affection and compassion for someone" (cf. Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27, 33; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33; 15:20)
 - i. Root = **splagchnon** (σπλάγχνον) = "intestines" or "bowels" (cf. Acts 1:18)]
 - ii. "³⁴...**because they were like sheep without a shepherd...**" (Mark 6:34; cf. Matt. 23:37)
 - e. **healed their sick** and "¹¹...**speaking to them about the kingdom of God...**" (Luke 9:11)
- #### II. Jesus' T_____ for His Disciples (vss. 15-17)
- a. The Jews considered having 2 evenings: 3-6pm & 6-9pm
 - b. Jesus had earlier asked Philip who was from that area,
"⁵...**"Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"**
⁶ **This He was saying to test him**" (John 6:5-6)
 - c. The **you** in Jesus' command **to give them something to eat** is emphatic!!!
 - d. Their response shows their spiritual weakness and their reliance on themselves instead of Jesus the True Vine (cf. John 15:4-5)

III. Jesus' P_____ Of Creation (vss. 18-21)

- a. There was rich grass to sit upon because it was Spring, just before the Passover (John 6:4; 7:1)
- b. "³⁹...**He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass.** ⁴⁰ **They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.**" (Mark 6:39-40; cf. Luke 9:14; John 6:10)
 - i. **groups** = **prasia** (πρασιά) which literally means "garden bed" and often referred to "a group of persons arranged in an orderly fashion"
 - ii. **πρασιά πρασιά** = "garden bed by garden bed"
- c. Modern day Christians tend to bow their heads and close their eyes to pray, but first century Jews tended to look **up toward heaven** to pray
 - i. "**Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth**" (m. Ber. 6:1)
- d. **breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples**
 - i. This was God's Divine Power Of Creation
- e. **and they all ate and were satisfied** because this was a MIRACLE!!!
 - i. The people recognized that the connection with the Prophet that Moses predicted and the other Old Testament pictures of the Messiah (cf. John 6:14; Deut. 18:15; Ex. 16:4, 31, 34ff; Ps. 132:15; 78:19; 1 Kings 17:9-16; 2 Kings 4:42-44)