

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ And he 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. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

1. What had Jesus heard about that caused him to withdraw to a solitary place? From what did he want to get away? Why did he want to be alone?

2. When the crowds heard that Jesus had gone away to a solitary place, what did they do?

3. What was Jesus’ reaction when he saw the crowds? What does this tell us about Jesus?

4. As the day grew late, what did the disciples suggest that Jesus have the crowds do?

5. What was Jesus’ reply to his disciples?

6. What was the disciples reply to Jesus' command?

7. How did Jesus use what the disciples had?

8. What was the result of Jesus' actions?

9. How many people does Matthew report were in that large crowd?

10. Read this story in the other gospels and compare the stories – what is the same, what is different or additional information found in each of the gospel accounts of this miracle?

Notes	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Location				
Why they went there				
Jesus reaction to the crowds				
The disciples' concern about the crowds				
What Jesus said to the disciples about feeding the crowd				

The disciples' reply to Jesus				
Jesus' response to their concerns				
Source of the five loaves and two fish				
What Jesus told the crowds to do				
What Jesus did with the loaves and fish				
What is reported about the meal				
What was noted about the left overs?				

How the crowd is numbered				
Notes:				
Notes:				

11. Why do you think Jesus fed the multitude? What do we learn from this account?

12. There are some that suggest that when Jesus demonstrated the generosity of the lad with the loaves, it moved people to likewise share what they had with them as well and that is how the people were fed. What do you think about that explanation? Does it fit the gospel account?