

# The Return of the Twelve & The Feeding of the Five Thousand

## ***A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 6: 30-44***

### *The Return of the Twelve.*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. <sup>32</sup> So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. <sup>33</sup> People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

### *The Feeding of the Five Thousand.*

<sup>34</sup> When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already very late. <sup>36</sup> Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> He said to them in reply, “Give them some food yourselves.” But they said to him, “Are we to buy two hundred days’ wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup> He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out they said, “Five loaves and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> So he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup> Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup> And they picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.



## Reflection Questions

- *Why do you think Jesus and his apostles needed to rest?*
- *How do you think the apostles felt when they saw the crowd?*
- *Why do you think the people followed Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus do when he saw them?*
- *What happened when it got late?*
- *What food did the apostles have?*
- *What did Jesus do?*
- *Did the people have enough to eat?*



Loaves & Fishes

