

# The Miracles of Jesus

## Lesson Twenty-One

### Feeding the Five Thousand Men

Text: Matthew 14:15-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:5-14

#### Introduction:

1. After performing the previous group of miracles, Jesus returned to His “own country” (Mark 6:1-6). {*Likely, this was Nazareth (Luke 4:16). This seems to be the last time Jesus is able to visit His hometown.*}
2. Following this, Jesus and His apostles preached throughout Galilee – with Him sending the apostles out in groups of two (Matthew 9:35 – 11:1; Mark 6:6-13; Luke 9:1-6).
3. As Jesus’ fame spread abroad, many differing opinions formed about Him.
4. Herod Antipas believe that He was John the Baptist, risen from the dead (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9).
5. Thus, Jesus begins the “first retirement” wherein He and His disciples leave the cities for a time of peace in deserted places.
6. However, a great crowd followed them and that led to the working of an amazing miracle.

#### I. The Miracle

- A. Jesus had compassion on the crowd; thus, He healed the sick and taught them of the kingdom of God (Luke 9:11).
- B. As day began to turn to evening, the people were in need of food.
  1. As the crowd approached, Jesus questioned Philip about feeding them (Jn. 6:5).
  2. The twelve suggested that Jesus send the crowd away to find food on their own.
  3. Instead, Jesus told His apostles to give them something to eat.
  4. When they questioned Him about the use of their money, He sent them into the crowd to what food they could find (Mark 6:37-38).
  5. Andrew informed Him of a lad who had five loaves and two small fishes (Jn. 6:9)
  6. Jesus asked for the food to be brought to Him (Matthew 14:18).
- C. After giving thanks for the food, Jesus distributed it to the apostles, and they distributed it among the crowd.
- D. Everyone ate until they were full, and 12 baskets of “leftovers” were collected.

#### II. The Manifestation

- A. The creative power of Jesus proved His deity.
- B. The compassion of Jesus was demonstrated in several ways.
  1. For physical needs – *food, healing*
  2. For spiritual needs – *leadership, teaching, salvation*

### III. The Message

- A. There is never a reason to depart from Jesus, for He can supply all our needs.
- B. What is small or insignificant to man can accomplish much when we allow the Lord to have and use it.
- C. The way that Jesus provided food to the crowd is the way He would provide truth (spiritual food) to the church – through the Apostles in an orderly fashion.
- D. If Jesus was thankful for His food, shouldn't we be (cf. 1 Timothy 4:3-5).
- E. Jesus was not wasteful of God's blessings, neither should we be.
- F. Those who come to Jesus will be satisfied (cf. Psalm 23 – *green pastures*).