

**Matthew 14:13-21:** Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.<sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.<sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves."<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."<sup>17</sup> They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish."<sup>18</sup> And he said, "Bring them here to me."<sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.<sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.<sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Intro:** As human beings, we have great needs. Our greatest need can only be met by God Himself. By feeding the 5,000, Jesus shows us that He is the true God Who can meet all our needs! **GOSPEL!**

**Blomberg/Bruner:** The feeding of the five thousand is in fact the only miracle to appear in all four Gospels, [besides the resurrection] "perhaps because it shows so comprehensively how Jesus is equal to all human need, whether social or spiritual."

### **1. After Hearing Of Herod's Response To His Ministry, Jesus Withdrew**

**Matthew 14:13:** Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself.

**Matthew 14:1-2:** At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus,<sup>2</sup> and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."

It was not yet Jesus' time to die. Jesus protected Himself from situations & circumstances that could lead to His premature death. He withdrew. He passed through the crowd that was going to throw Him off the cliff in his hometown. But when His time came to die, He gave Himself over & allowed Himself to be taken. He didn't resist.

There are times in Christian history when Christians have retreated from persecution if they were able, and times when they stood and stayed and died: **Matthew 10:23:** When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next . . .

### **2. Crowds Of People Pursued Jesus**

**Matthew 14:13:** But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

When the crowds of people heard that Jesus went away to a desolate (deserted, empty) place, they went after Him!

### **3. Jesus Had Compassion On The People And Healed The Sick**

**Matthew 14:14:** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, & he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

- This word for compassion is used 8 times in the N. T., and it always refers to Jesus!

Again, notice the heart of Jesus. Yes, He was serious about getting alone and away from people! He was in a boat out on the water in a place where even the shore was in a desolate place. But when He came back to shore, He saw the great crowd and had compassion on them! And His compassion led to action! He healed their sick! He loves! He cares about people's needs! He cares about their pains! He cares about your needs & pains & suffering!

**Hymn:** O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love;  
leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;  
how he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;  
how he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;  
how for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:  
'tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

#### **4. Jesus' Disciples' Have A Food Shortage**

**Matthew 14:15-18:** Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." <sup>18</sup> And he said, "Bring them here to me."

**a. The disciples urge Jesus to send the crowds away because there is no food:** These men, women, & children are needy! They need food to live. Food was much harder to prepare then. They can't provide it for themselves in this place. They are like sheep without a shepherd: they need a Shepherd to provide. They need the Good Shepherd to provide!

**b. Jesus says the crowds don't need to leave and tells His disciples to give them food:** Jesus makes it clear to His own disciples that they are responsible for doing ministry: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Jesus said: "You help! You serve! You provide! You feed! You minister to the people!"

**Ligon Duncan:** Have you ever noticed how often in the gospels the disciples respond to someone coming to Christ by saying in effect, go away? Have you ever noticed that? In Matthew chapter 15, we're going to come to a passage where a Canaanite woman, a Syro-Phoenician woman, comes to the Lord Jesus for help. And you know what the disciples tell her? Go away. Well, that's evangelistic. And there's another passage. Do you remember the people bringing children to Christ and they want Christ's blessing on those children. And you know what the disciples say to them? Don't bother the master with your children. Go away. Leave us alone. This is the core of the missionary force that's going to take the world?! The disciples are constantly telling people in effect, don't bother the Master and don't bother us. Go away. And here the Lord Jesus Christ is saying, "Don't tell them to go away. You give them something to eat." He is saying to His disciples, He is saying to us, "I am placing the responsibility on you to minister. It's not an option. You don't have a choice. You're mine. I've bought you with a price. You minister, you serve, you give, you show compassion. It's not your option to say go away. You minister. You serve."

**c. The disciples can't – they only have five loaves of bread & two fish:** Yes, they can't! They are unable to feed all these people! But they were with the One Who can! God had used Moses, Elijah, & Elisha to perform miracles to feed God's people. Now here is God in their midst, yet His disciples are worried about having food for everyone! They had seen Jesus Himself heal people, cast out thousands of demons, calm the storm, and raise the dead?! Yet, they wondered where they would get food!

Do you doubt Jesus? Jesus has done something more amazing than all those miracles for you: cross & resurrection!

**And apart from Jesus, His disciples & we can do nothing! John 15:5:** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Theodore Monod:** Looking unto Jesus – three words only, but in these three words is the whole secret of life. Looking unto Jesus in the Scriptures to learn who He is, what He has done, why He did it, and where He is now. Looking unto Jesus incarnate, our representative, our federal head and surety.

Looking unto Jesus crucified, to find in His blood our ransom, our pardon, our peace.

Looking unto Jesus risen again, to find in Him the righteousness which alone justifies us and permits us, unworthy as we are, to approach with assurance in His name, Him who is His Father and our Father, His God and our God.

Looking unto Jesus glorified, to find in Him our High Priest, our heavenly advocate, appearing even now for us before the presence of God and supplying the imperfections of our persons and prayers by the efficacy of His holiness and His prayers, which the Father hears always.

Looking unto Jesus and not to our faith, for it is not of faith that strength comes, but it is from the Savior by faith. It is not looking unto our look: it is by looking unto Jesus.

Looking unto Jesus and not to our strength nor our weakness, not to our gifts nor our griefs, not to our meditations or lack of them, not to our brethren nor our enemies.

It is looking unto Jesus ALONE, unto Jesus AGAIN, unto Jesus ALWAYS, and unto Jesus UNTIL He comes again and "we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is."

**1 Peter 4:11:** whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**d. Jesus says: "Bring them here to me.":** Yes! Go to Jesus! Bring what you have to Jesus! Look unto Jesus!

**Pastor:** When Moses insisted that he needed a sign to use before Pharaoh, God told Moses to use the staff that was already in his hand (Ex 4:1-3). & it was that same shepherd's rod that was stretched out to part the Red Sea (Ex 14:16). Or when the widow of Zarephath needed food, Elisha asked her for nothing more than what she already had & God multiplied that meager amount so that her jar of oil never ran dry (2 Kings 4:1-7). The Lord said to Gideon, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" (Jdgs. 6:14). Or when David fought Goliath, all he had was a sling and a stone – he brought them to God. & so too, when the disciples said we only have two fish & five small loaves, Jesus simply said, "Bring them to me." **Jesus is God!**

**James Boice:** What can you do for Jesus? You know the answer to that as well as I do: nothing at all. But God has given you something that can be used effectively if you place it in Jesus' hands.

Do you see & feel your desperate need for Christ? Are you bringing everything you have & need to Him? Are you in an impossible, hopeless situation in your life right now? There is always hope if you know the King of kings, the Bread of Life, because He can do the impossible! Jesus is God! These are opportunities for Him to show off!

### **5. Jesus Provides Food To Satisfy All The People**

**Matthew 14:19-21:** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**James Boice:** We can hardly overlook the contrast between the party King Herod threw on his birthday for his friends and the party Jesus throws in the wilderness for the crowds. The first party is given by a king in his palace, the second by a Galilean preacher in the desert. The first was for the important people of this world, the second for the masses. The first was for Herod; it was his birthday. The second was centered on the crowds. The first was a drunken orgy, the second a pleasant country meal. The first was immoral; the high point was Salome's provocative dance. The second followed holy, edifying teaching by the Lord. The first ended with the murder of John the Baptist, the second by the feeding of those who had no food. The first was for this world only; the second anticipated the heavenly marriage supper to which people from every tribe and nation are invited and to which the poor of many nations will come. (Herod cared for himself/lust for power; Jesus cared for God & loved others)

**a. Jesus orders the crowd to sit down on the grass: Psalm 23:1-2:** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures (Jesus is the Good Shepherd!)

## **Jesus had to lack everything for His sheep because of the sin of the sheep!**

Instead of rest in green pastures, He had no place to lay His head.

Instead of still waters, He was baptized with the wrath of God.

Instead of a restored soul, His soul was poured out unto death.

Instead of being led in paths of righteousness, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter and offered Himself as a propitiation so that God might be shown to be righteous.

Instead of fearing no evil in the valley of the shadow of death, He was made evil Who knew no evil and sorrowed unto death as He contemplated the darkness of death that would utterly consume Him.

Instead of having God with him as His comfort, God forsook Him, pouring out His just wrath upon Him.

Instead of having a rod and a staff to comfort Him, the rod of the Father was pleased to crush Him.

Instead of having a table spread before Him, He hungered in the wilderness and thirsted unto death.

Instead of having His head anointed with oil, He wore a blood-soaked crown of thorns.

Instead of having a cup that overflows, He drank the cup of the wrath of God to the dregs.

Instead of goodness and mercy pursuing Him all His days, wrath and torment pursued Him unto death.

Instead of dwelling in the house of the LORD, He was banished from the dwelling of the LORD as the unclean and cursed one; Jesus had to lack everything as He Himself became the Lamb Who was slain.

And He rose triumphant from the grave! **And if you repent and believe in Him, you shall be saved!**

And He did all of this on behalf of stubborn, sinful, hell-deserving sheep who rebelled against Him. This is the best news in the world! All who know this Good Shepherd by grace through faith will lack no good thing, for He will provide for them, protect them, comfort them & satisfy them fully. He will be all in all to them now & forever & ever: **Revelation 7:15-17:** Therefore they are before the throne of God, & serve him day & night in his temple; & he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, & he will guide them to springs of living water, & God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**b. Jesus said a blessing for the food the disciples had:** He gave thanks to God for the food!

**c. Jesus miraculously multiplied the bread to feed everyone:** Jesus is God Who speaks things into existence – the same God Who said, “Let there be light!” in Genesis 1!

**d. Everyone ate & was satisfied:** Jesus provides fully, provides all, & He alone satisfies! Overflowing satisfaction

- **Psalm 132:13, 15:** For the LORD has chosen Zion . . . I will satisfy her poor with bread.

- **Psalm 145:14, 16:** The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down . . . You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

- **Psalm 34:8:** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Jesus is the God-Man Who satisfies! He’s the Kingly-Messiah Who will host the everlasting wedding banquet!

- **Revelation 19:9:** Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

**e. Twelve baskets full of food were left over:** What does this remind us of? 1) Jesus’ satisfaction is abundant! He gives more than we could ever dream or imagine!

2) Jesus is the Creator of a new people – the new people of God. Like 12 tribes, 12 disciples: **Matthew 19:28:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

3) Jesus is the new & greater Moses, leading a new people through a new Exodus: Jesus commanded them to sit down in the grass, He provided bread for the people in the wilderness, and twelve baskets full were left over! Conclusion, Jesus is the Good Shepherd and Prophet like Moses Who was to come! Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets!

**Jesus is the greater Moses Who was to come: Exodus 5:1:** Afterward Moses & Aaron went & said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

**Jesus provides bread in the wilderness:** God provided manna for Israel in the wilderness. Jesus is God!

The bread and fish didn't run out! Jesus is the power of God!

**He's also the prophet to come:** The prophets of old, Elijah and Elisha did things like this by the power of God: The Widow of Zarephath: **1 Kings 17:16:** The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Twelve Baskets point to the 12 tribes of Israel. Jesus is the greater Moses, Elijah, & Elisha, all at the same time!

**John 6:47-51:** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. **And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.**"

**Verse 19:** and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples

**Matthew 26:26:** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

**Jesus gives these needy people bread, and He Himself is the bread of life who alone satisfies! He was broken on that cross, He rose up from that grave, and now we feast on Him by faith so that we might be saved!**

"That's My King!" Who's The Prophet, Good Shepherd, And Provider  
Whose Strong Arms Of Mercy Can't Be Opened Wider!

Jesus had compassion on the crowd  
Though they were proud  
And without a leader poorly endowed  
He taught them truth out loud  
While they sat under the cloud  
Until their stomachs growled  
And with His power to provide He wowed the crowd  
And gave them more food than their appetites allowed  
He's God come down, and they should have bowed  
And to Him alone all allegiance avowed!

That's my King!

People came to Him from every place  
Though He had no desirable face  
He and His disciples couldn't hide from the chase  
Or slow down their pace  
And they had no personal space  
But He kept showing love and grace  
That would eventually spread to every race!

That's my King! Do you know Him?!

He's the Prophet like Moses Who was to come  
Though they didn't know where He came from  
He was spit upon, killed, and treated like scum  
But He rose from the grave, lifting up from the slum  
Of all beauty and good He's the infinite sum!

That's my King!

He's the Good Shepherd Who had to die  
"Is there another way?!" was His holy cry  
Forsaken on the cross He asked His Father why  
He obeyed the Divine will and did comply  
Without a sigh He glorified the Most High  
And kept His eye fixed on the joy to come by and by  
To win for us mercies of endless supply  
If on Him alone we'll only rely  
So what's your reply  
To His arms may you forever fly!

That's my King!

He's the Bread of Life  
Who died for His wife  
In order to finally end all strife!

That's my King!

He's the Bread that was broken  
An incomparable token  
God's final Word spoken  
From the dead He's awoken  
To save His chosen  
Restore their emotion  
And win their devotion  
As He makes a way open  
To enjoy His bottomless, love-mercy ocean!

That's my King! I wonder if you know Him today?!

He's the Bread Who came down  
To wipe away the Father's frown  
He won the crown for His Father's renown  
He's the most precious noun  
Of any town around  
In His glory and beauty we can drown  
When sin increases His grace will abound  
He's the Master of the lost and found  
He's like the heavenly hound  
He'll chase you down

He died but rose up from the ground  
So His mercy would surround  
His enemies confound  
And His people forever astound  
With His glory unspeakably profound!

That's my King!

All your needs He will provide  
Since He died to make you His bride  
He'll kill your pride and be your guide  
He's forever and always on your side  
So put all sin aside and in Him abide  
Even though your tempted and tried  
His arms are open wide  
So run to Him and in His mercy hide  
And spread His Gospel worldwide  
So you can praise His name in heaven with all nations side by side!

That's my King!

He satisfies the desire of every living thing  
Of all pleasure and joy He's the everlasting spring  
He can't help but make you sing  
Because of all the delight He'll bring  
So turn from every other empty fling  
And flee to Him and cling  
Because He's the only all satisfying King!

Christ Is The Bread Who Satisfies  
He Has Compassion, Heals, Supplies  
All Our Desires Of Any Size  
He's The Good Shepherd Who'd Baptize  
Our Hearts He Came To Circumcise  
Creates From Nothing Analyze  
In Genesis He's God All Wise  
Yet For Lost Sinners Agonize  
He Bore God's Wrath And Helpless Cries  
"Forsaken!" All Alone He Dies  
But In Three Days Our King Did Rise  
Conquered Sin And Death And Lies  
By Faith Alone We're Just, Arise  
It's God Alone Who Opens Eyes  
To Grant In Christ All Joys And Highs  
So Come To Christ Who Satisfies  
For He's Our Everlasting Prize!

That's my King! That's my King!