

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Luke 9:10–17

And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing. When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.” But He said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of fifty.” And they did so, and made them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

Main Point

Jesus, the Bread of Life, feeds weary souls.

I. Introduction

- A. Humans are (as the atheist Sigmund Freud said) “incurably religious.” According to Scripture, we are designed to worship.
- B. For most of human history (since Genesis 3) mankind has sought to worship everyone/ everything *except* God.
- C. Humans will not be satisfied unless they worship the One Whom they were designed to worship. Our weary souls will not find rest apart from God. “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You” (Augustine, *Confessions*).
- D. God satisfies the longings of the soul. He also feeds the physical cravings of His people.
 - 1. Manna for Israel (Exod. 16)
 - 2. Praying for “daily bread” (Matt. 6:11)

II. Exposition

- A. Christ Receives Disciples (vv. 10–11a)
 - 1. The disciples returned from their ministry trip, excited to share the results.
 - 2. The multitudes followed Jesus and his disciples into a deserted place.
 - 3. “Christ received them”
- B. Christ Instructs Disciples (v. 11b)

1. Preached the kingdom of God
 2. Healed the sick
- C. Christ Feeds Disciples (vv. 12–17)
1. The disciples gave a logical suggestion: *Have the people go get food*. Implied? “We can’t feed them.”
 2. Jesus told the disciples to feed the people—an impossible task in the eyes of the disciples.
 3. Jesus fed the people with meager resources and had ample leftovers.

III. Truths

- A. Jesus cares about His disciples.
- B. Jesus is God.
- C. Jesus feeds the weary soul.
 1. The Bread of Life saves sinners
 2. The Bread of Life sustains saints.