

## Matthew 14:13-21

**Context:** Death of John the Baptist.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, *he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill.*

<sup>15</sup> 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 that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.’

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, ‘They do not need to go away. **You give them something to eat.**’

<sup>17</sup> ‘We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,’ they answered.

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

## Mark 6:30-44

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered round Jesus and **reported to him** all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves **in a boat** to a **solitary** place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. ‘This is a *remote* place,’ they said, ‘and it’s already very late. <sup>36</sup> *Send the people away* so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.’

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, ‘**You give them something to eat.**’

They said to him, ‘*That would take more than half a year’s wages!* <sup>a</sup> *Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?*’

<sup>38</sup> ‘How many loaves do you have?’ he asked. ‘Go and see.’

When they found out, they said, ‘Five – and two fish.’

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told them to make all the people **sit down** in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in *groups of hundreds and 50s.*

<sup>41</sup> 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 his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were *satisfied*, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up **twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.** <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

## Luke 9:10-17

**Context** Sending out of disc. Herod curious

<sup>10</sup> When the apostles returned, they **reported to Jesus** what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew **by themselves** to a town called Bethsaida, <sup>11</sup> but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, ‘*Send the crowd away* so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a *remote* place here.’

<sup>13</sup> He replied, ‘**You give them something to eat.**’

They answered, ‘We have only five loaves of bread and two fish – unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.’

<sup>14</sup> (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, ‘Make them sit down *in groups of about fifty each.*’

<sup>15</sup> The disciples did so, and everyone **sat** down. <sup>16</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. <sup>17</sup> They all ate and were *satisfied*, and the disciples picked up **twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.**

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## John 6:1-15

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing those who were ill. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a **mountainside** and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish **Passover Festival was near.**

<sup>5</sup> When **Jesus** looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, ‘*Where shall we buy bread* for these people to eat?’ <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, ‘It would take more than half a year’s wages<sup>a</sup> to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> ‘Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?’

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, ‘Make the people **sit down.**’ There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

<sup>12</sup> When they had *all had enough to eat*, he said to his disciples, ‘Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.’ <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled **twelve baskets** with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, ‘Surely this is the Prophet\* who is to come into the world.’ <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

(\* Deuteronomy 18:15,18)