

## With Christ We Succeed

The feeding of the 5000 is one miracle of Jesus found in all four gospels. It is the first miracle designed to train the disciples in ministry. A powerful message in this miracle is communicated: God can take our limits and create sufficiency for those we serve.

**Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14**

### A Compilation

*On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. Now when Jesus heard this, he took them and withdrew from there in a boat, to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias, to a town called Bethsaida, to a desolate place, up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. And he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.*

Jesus felt for those who followed him.

*Now when it was evening, the twelve came and said to him, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." He said this to test them, for he himself knew what he would do.*

Jesus prepared his disciples for the time when he would no longer be with them. They needed to learn to depend on Him in everything

A large crowd of hungry people in an isolated location

Disciples suggest sending them away, but Jesus simply says "You feed them"

*And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" And they said to him, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish--unless we are to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said, "Bring them here to me."*

5 loaves and 2 fish - Such a small amount for such a large crowd

*Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in groups, by hundreds and by fifties, about five thousand in number, besides women and children. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied.*

Consider the space needed for this crowd! MHS stadium only ~3500

We ~20 so double for fifty or x5 for 100; 5000 = 50 X100 or 100 X50 (+ women & children)

Jesus says prepare them to eat!

Disciples don't know where the meal will come from

Jesus pushes them to act on FAITH

How would your wife react if you brought two people to supper the day before grocery day?

They knew how little was in the pantry

If this does not work, they were toast!

*And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves and of the fish, left by those who had eaten.*

*When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"*

Yet Jesus had a plan! It was not revealed until the last moment, but it was successful. Eaten their fill! More left than they started with!

No wonder the people recognized him as prophet.

### Do You Trust The Lord To Always Come Through?

Are you willing to "step out" not knowing where your foot will fall? - **Hebrews 11:8**

Abraham trusted God completely

Paul also knew to put his trust in the Lord. - **Philippians 4:11-13**

He knew it was God who would bring success, whatever his endeavor. - **1Corinthians 3:5-7**

Sometimes you may feel inadequate to do what the Lord would have you to do. View that as an incredible opportunity to walk by faith and trust in Jesus who will take your limited resources and provide all that is necessary for success. Our insufficiency and inadequacy + Jesus = amazing results.