

FEEDING THE 5000 – Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus, the Good Shepherd – When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34)

Jesus, the Bread of Life – Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

Details from the four gospel accounts:

Context/timing:

- immediately following the death of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12)
- following Jesus’ rejection in his hometown (Matthew 13: 53-58)
- shortly after the 12 disciples returned from their mission trip (Matthew 10)

Journey from Capernaum to Bethsaida – Luke 9:10

Teaching and Healing – Luke 9:11

The hungry crowd – Matthew 14:15; John 6:5

A poor boy’s lunch – John 6:9

The miracle of multiplication – Matthew 14:19

Orderly distribution – Mark 6:39-40; Luke 9:14

Intentional abundance – Matthew 14:20

Parallels to God’s provision of manna in the wilderness – Exodus 16

God’s Work / Our faithfulness and obedience

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Questions for further study and discussion:

Am I eagerly seeking after Jesus (as the crowd was)?

Am I faithfully serving God with the gifts He has given me (as the boy did)?

Am I willing to do what Jesus asks of me, even if I don’t fully understand what is happening (like the disciples)?

Am I demonstrating compassion for lost souls around me (as Jesus did)?