

Feeding the Five Thousand

Apart from the resurrection of Christ,
the only miracle reported in all four gospels is
the feeding of the five thousand.

Clearly, to the gospel writers,
it was uniquely important to
understanding
Jesus.

So we tend to read the account and ask ourselves:
As servants of Christ,
how we are to respond to needs when
they overwhelm our meager resources?

But read further in John's account, in John 6:26-65, and
you'll find Jesus telling the crowd that
physical need is not the point of the event at all.

In fact, Jesus pointedly says that we cannot do what He did,
because we cannot be who He is.

The feeding of the five thousand was a sign (v.26).

A "sign" is an event,
especially a miracle,
intended to verify the truth of a teaching.

Jesus intended the feeding of the five thousand to be a sign pointing to
Himself as the Bread of Life,
the unique satisfaction for all life's hungers.

The miracle was intended to shout,
"Come to Me and satisfy your hunger forever!"

But the crowd didn't see the sign,
only the free food.
For people who worked hard for daily bread,
free food was a powerful motivator.

But Jesus continued to press them to
understand the real purpose of the sign:

*"Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures
to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you."* (John 6:27, NASB)

He urged them to look beyond physical bread,
which satisfies
only our bodies, and
only for a few hours.

As the True Bread,

the Bread of Life,
Jesus provides
complete life,
complete provision for all we are,
forever.

Eternal life is
Jesus Christ, and
He freely shares all He is with
all who come to Him and
trust Him (John 6:29, 35)

The feeding of the five thousand
points backwards to manna in the wilderness,
where God provided heavenly bread to
those with no other source of food.

As then, Jesus was teaching them to
look to God and
depend on Him
for needs that no one and nothing else can meet.

The feeding of the five thousand also
points ahead to the last supper:
"This is My body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19, NASB).

His own body is the
bread broken,
blessed by the Father,
to feed the human race
when nothing else can.

Feast yourself on Jesus Christ.
Trust Him.
Receive Him.
Take Him in, and
you will become one with Him,
sharing in His magnificent life
forever (John 6:56).

Hymn: [Feeding the Five Thousand](#)

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