

Miracles ✦

LET HIM BE KNOWN

The Miracle of Feeding 5000

Miracles ✦

What is a miracle?

As Jesus sat down, he looked out and saw the massive crowd of people scrambling up the hill, for they wanted to be near him. So he turned to Philip and said, “Where will we buy enough food to feed all these people?” Now Jesus already knew what he was about to do, but he said this to stretch Philip’s faith. Philip answered, “Well, I supposed if were to give everyone only a snack, it would cost thousands of dollars to enough food !” But just then, Andrew, Peter’s brother, spoke and said, “Look! Here’s a young person with five barley loaves and two small fish but how far would that go with this huge crowd?”

“Have everyone sit down,” Jesus said to his disciples. So on the vast grassy slope, more than five thousand hungry people sat down. Jesus then took the barley loaves and the fish and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to the disciples to distribute to the people. Miraculously, the food multiplied, with everyone eating as much as they wanted! When everyone was satisfied, Jesus told his disciples, “Now go back and gather up the pieces left over so that nothing will be wasted.” The disciples filled up twelve baskets of fragments, a basket of leftovers for each disciple.

The Background of the Miracle

1. The crowd came to hear Jesus
2. The place was deserted
3. The time was late in the day
4. The people were hungry
5. The disciples feeling helpless

Can you imagine this miracle?

Miracles ✦



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3 Aspects of the Miracle

1. The magnitude of the miracle
2. The lesson of the miracle
3. The significance of the miracle

The Magnitude of the Miracle

1. How big is the crowd?
2. Extent of multiplication - “As much as they wanted” & “leftovers”
3. “Make the people sit down” - Orderliness

What does the magnitude tell us?

1. Jesus is compassionate to all
2. Jesus is unlimited in power
3. Jesus is a wise manager
4. Jesus is “more than enough”

The Lesson of the Miracle

1. Question for Philip
2. Answer by Philip
3. Answer by the boy and Andrew

The Lesson of the Miracle

1. Jesus has a way to probe us
2. Jesus already has the answer
3. Jesus can use the little we offer
4. Jesus gave thanks even for the little
5. Jesus wants us to work with Him

What happened after the Miracle?

The disciples still had not understood about the loaves because their heart was hardened (Mark 6:51).

The next day, the crowd looked for Jesus for more food (John 6:26)

The Significance of the Miracle

The revelation that Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:48) and those who eat His flesh and drink His blood will have eternal life (John 6:54)

The Significance of the Miracle

“Men shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus is looking for your spiritual hunger

The Significance of the Miracle

Simon Peter declared “ We have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”

Philip

Acts 8 – cast out evil spirits, healed the paralyzed and the lame, transported by the Holy Spirit

Summary

1. The miracle is a sign of Jesus' divinity
2. Jesus use challenges to stretch our faith
3. Only Jesus can meet our deepest needs

Reflection

1. Jesus gave thanks to God even for the little He had, Can we do that?
2. Jesus wants us to change and expand our mindset. What mindset we need to change?
3. How does understanding miracle increase your faith?